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HISTORY

REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 48 // NOVEMBER 2017 // £4.99

VICTORIA RISE OF AN EMPRESS

How India became the
jewel in her crown



PERSIA v SPARTA
Clash of the ancient
superpowers

**FALL OF THE
BERLIN WALL**

How communism in Europe
came crashing down



**LIFE AFTER
THE WAR**

How a nation in
ruins rebuilt itself

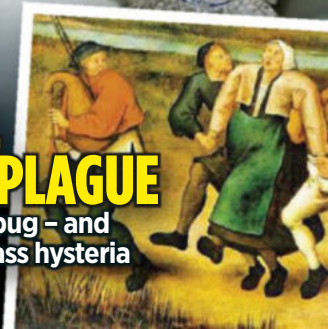


**FRANKENSTEIN'S
MOTHER**

Mary Shelley's monster
was born out of tragedy

**MEDIEVAL
DANCING PLAGUE**

The deadly jitterbug – and
other cases of mass hysteria



**MAN IN THE
IRON MASK**

Who was Louis XIV's
mysterious prisoner?



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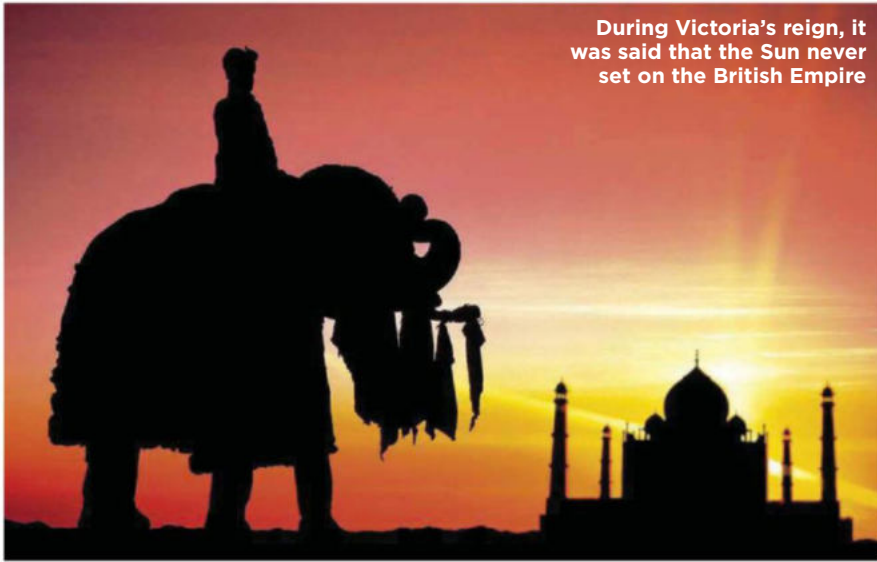
AEGEAN ODYSSEY

Hosting an average of just 350 passengers, *Aegean Odyssey* is no 'floating city'. She is small enough to put in at more characterful ports inaccessible to the mega-ships, there are no queues to embark or disembark, the service is much more personal, and you get plenty of time to interact with the accompanying experts.

Yet on the other hand, she is large enough to offer a superb selection on on-board facilities, including two dining venues, several comfortable lounges and bars, a spa centre and well-stocked library. Cabins are spacious, modern and intelligently designed. Solo travellers, so often relegated to second class status, are very well catered for aboard *Aegean Odyssey*, with more than 30 roomy dedicated single cabins across a variety of categories at a minimal supplement.



During Victoria's reign, it was said that the Sun never set on the British Empire



The Queen who curried favour



With hit movies and blockbusting TV series exploring the life of **Queen Victoria**, we thought now was the perfect time to take our own look at how she came to **fall in love with the subcontinent**, despite never having ventured beyond Europe. But there was more to Victoria's relationship with India than **her famed love of curry**, as we reveal from page 24.

Another history-making woman featured this issue is Mary Shelley (p49), whose *Frankenstein* was a revolutionary novel. But who was the woman behind the monster? Hers is **a tale of such scandal and tragedy** that it's a wonder it hasn't been dramatised on screen as often as her creation – or indeed our cover star.

On the subject of revolutionary creations, we mark 100 years since the **first mass tank attack**, at the Battle of Cambrai during World War I (p36). Initially dismissed, **these 'landships' would change the way we fought** forever.

Keep your letters coming, and happy reading!

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Paul

Don't miss our December issue, on sale 9 November

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

300

Lashings of the whip Persian king Xerxes I ordered the sea to receive for sinking his ships. See page 57.

2

Number of grizzly bear cubs kept as pets at the White House by President Thomas Jefferson. Donald Trump is the first US president in almost 150 years not to keep a pet. See page 16.

573

Hours (plus four mins, 34 secs) it took the winner of the first 'Bunions Derby' to run across the USA. See page 70.

ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



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Britain's
tumultuous
rule of the
subcontinent



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Film fans
experience the
wonder of 3D for
the first time



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West and East
Berlin are united
once more



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The Apollo 12 mission and
other anniversaries

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Meet the nemesis of the
Spartans: King Xerxes I



NOVEMBER 2017

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Cross-country
running - literally

**LIKE IT?
SUBSCRIBE!**

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History Makers: Xerxes

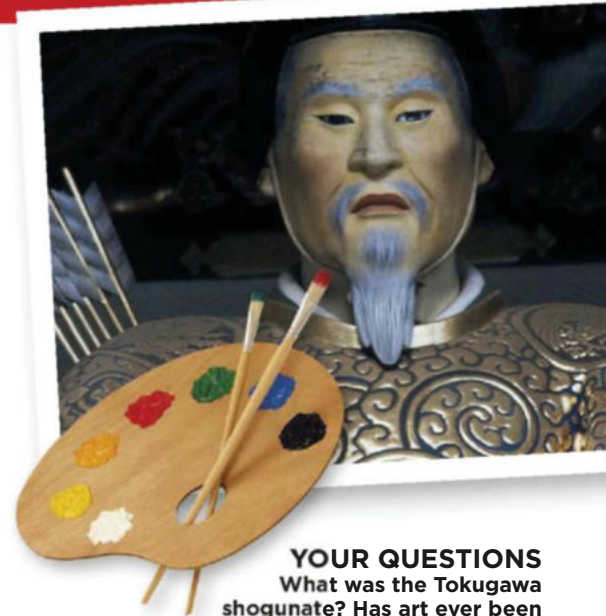
The Persian 'King of Kings' dares to take on the Ancient Greek empire.....p57

In Pictures: Post-war Britain

How a nation devastated by war resurrected itself from the ashes.....p62

Great Adventures: The Bunion Derby

How nearly 200 runners tried to cross the US - on their own two feet.....p70



YOUR QUESTIONS
What was the Tokugawa shogunate? Has art ever been considered a sport? Turn to page 77 to find out

Q&A

Ask the Experts

Your questions answered.....p77

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ALAMY XI, GETTY X8



TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



SNAPSHOT

1946 A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME

GI Joe may be in a cage at the Tower of London, but he is being hailed as a hero rather than a villain. During World War II, the blue-check carrier pigeon had flown 20 miles in as many minutes over the battlegrounds of Italy to deliver a vital message, saving up to 100 soldiers of the 56th (London) Division. For his "outstanding flight", Joe is brought to this special ceremony on 4 November 1946 to receive the animal-only Dickin Medal for gallantry.

TOP PHOTO





SNAPSHOT

1930 FOOD WITH A VIEW

Before the luxurious Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York is even finished, two waiters show off their table (or should that be girder?) service. They had to be raised by crane, balancing silver trays in one hand all the way, to bring a slap-up meal from the hotel's chefs to the construction workers. Building the 47-storey, 190-metre skyscraper was dangerous work, but it came with perks!







PRIVATE
NO ROAD THIS WAY.

SNAPSHOT

1927 A BRIDGE TOO FAR

Spare a thought for this poor woman. Although there are several bridges on the River Cart near Glasgow – a new lift bridge opened not too far away in 1923 – there are none near her home. The quickest way for her to cross is still this rather undignified trolley chair, and she doesn't look too happy about it.





“I READ THE NEWS TODAY...”

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **November**



A GIANT LEAP

1969 APOLLO 12 LAUNCHED

Just four months after the Apollo 11 moon landings, the US reached for the stars again. After taking his first step onto the lunar surface, the **short-statured mission commander Charles ‘Pete’ Conrad** exclaimed: “Whoopie! Man, that may have been a small one for Neil, but that’s a long one for me.”

NO LIE!

Contrary to popular belief, Michelangelo did not lie on the scaffolding while he painted, but painted from a **standing position**.

SETTING SIGHTS HIGH 1512 SISTINE CEILING REVEALED

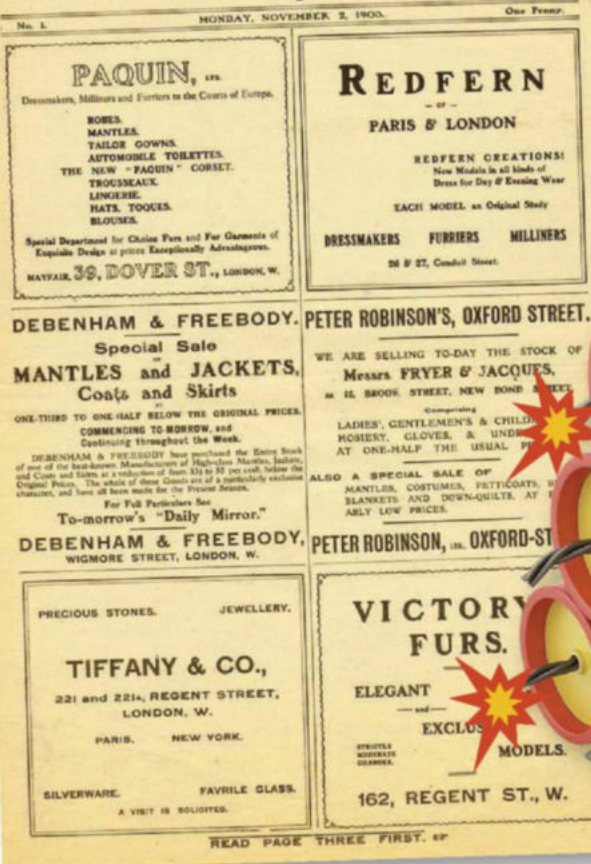
Pope Julius II decided to **celebrate All Saints’ Day in style** by bestowing upon the public an incredible gift – allowing them to see the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel for the first time, before the chapel officially opened. **Painted over a period of four years**, the work was only meant to be the twelve figures of the Apostles, but Michaelangelo negotiated for the ability “to do as he liked”. It would prove to be one of his greatest masterpieces.

The Daily Mirror.

THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL?

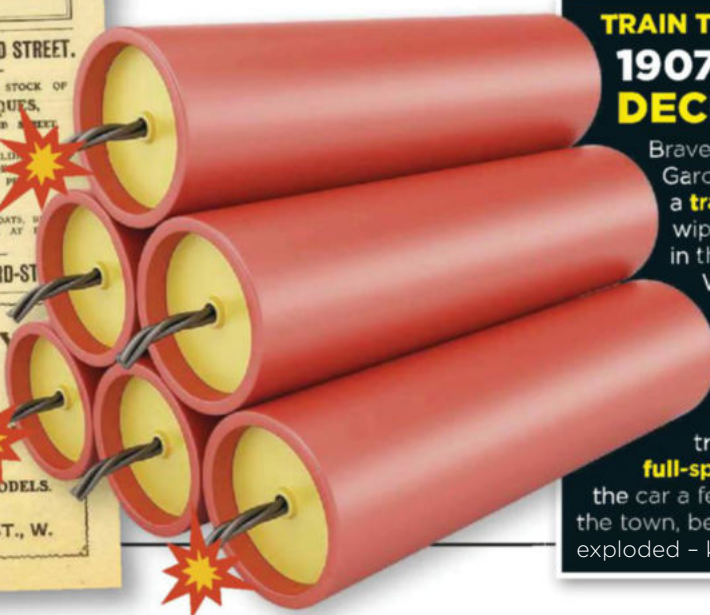
1903 FIRST ISSUE OF THE DAILY MIRROR

Spotting a gap in the market, publishing magnate Alfred Harmsworth launched the *Daily Mirror* – a newspaper “**for women, run by women**”. It failed to convince readers, so a year later the paper’s female editor and journalists were fired and it was rebranded as a “paper for men and women”.



TRAIN TRAGEDY AVERTED 1907 DYNAMITE DECISION

Brave railway worker Jesús García Corona prevented a **train full of TNT** from wiping out a small town in the Mexican desert. While he took a break, the 25-year-old saw smoke billowing from one of the carriages containing dynamite. Rushing onto the train and **putting it into full-speed reverse**, he got the car a few kilometres from the town, before the entire train exploded – killing him instantly.





KING WITHOUT A CROWN 1272 ACCESSION OF EDWARD I

Edward I – a King notorious for his brutal treatment of the Scots and banishment of Jews – ascended to the English throne in November 1272, while he was away on crusade. This was the **first time that an English king had succeeded without a coronation**. Upon news of his father's death, Edward agreed to return, but took a leisurely route back and was crowned almost two years later.

A STAR IS BORN 1928 MICKEY MOUSE DEBUTS

The world's most famous rodent was introduced to the world with the release of *Steamboat Willie*, **Disney's first synchronised-sound cartoon**. The inspiration for the character came from a tame mouse at Walt's studio in Kansas City, the predecessor of the Walt Disney Company. Mickey was originally named 'Mortimer', but Walt's wife persuaded him to change it to something less "pompous".



"...OH BOY"

November events that changed the world

20 NOVEMBER AD 284 DIOCLETIAN COMES TO POWER

A Roman cavalry commander, Diocletian, is proclaimed ruler after Emperor Carus's death despite him having two heirs.

7 NOVEMBER 1492 COMET CRASHES TO EARTH

The first recorded meteorite crashes into a wheat field in Alsace, France. The locals think it is an omen.

10 NOVEMBER 1871 DR LIVINGSTONE IS FOUND

After the *New York Herald* sends a reporter to locate the missing Scottish doctor David Livingstone, he eventually finds him deep within the African jungle.

2 NOVEMBER 1930 SELASSIE TAKES THE THRONE

'Ras Tafari' is crowned King Haile Selassie I in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the ceremony costing over 3 million dollars.

30 NOVEMBER 1936 CRYSTAL PALACE BURNS DOWN

What began as a small fire rips through London's Crystal Palace, destroying it beyond repair. Only two water towers survive.

1 NOVEMBER 1963 VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT KILLED

In a CIA-backed coup, the President of South Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem, is assassinated after the country's Buddhist majority grew angry with his pro-Catholic government.

14 NOVEMBER 1994 FIRST PUBLIC EUROSTAR TRIP

The first paying passengers board the Eurostar, crossing the new Channel Tunnel on their journeys to Lille, Paris and Brussels.

OUT WITH THE OLD 1793 CULT OF REASON FOUNDED

Deciding that Catholicism was the religion of the hated old aristocracy, most of whom they had just beheaded, the **French Revolutionaries established a new religion** – the so-called 'cult of reason'. It championed the ransacking of churches, the worship of truth and liberty, and a hefty dose of carnivals and partying.



AND FINALLY...

When Sweden was defeated by Russia, France's ally, Napoleon Bonaparte forced the country to **declare war on its own ally**, Britain. Despite this, Sweden continued to allow 'invading' British ships into their port... to trade.



Today

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989 ★★ DAILY SALE 614,332 (September daily sale) 22p (Republic of Ireland 35p)

NOVEMBER 9, 1989

FALL

by ROBIN STACEY

THE wall that divided the world fell yesterday.

Its 97 miles of machine gun turrets and barbed wire split Berlin, standing between 16 million East Germans and freedom.

Their leaders finally admitted defeat as the flood of refugees heading West rendered it obsolete. Communist bosses opened all frontier posts in Berlin and the rest of divided Germany.

At first only a handful of East Berliners dared to cross, then dozens. By last night hundreds were streaming through gates most had never seen unbarred before.

The famous Checkpoint Charlie, run by the Western military forces, was thrown open to fleeing civilians.

Families will now be reunited for the first time since the bricks and barbed wire went up in 1961 in front of a disbelieving West. For 10,310 days the Wall symbolised the inhumanity of Communism.

Makeshift shrines mark the places where hundreds lost their lives in a brave scramble across. Thousands more were injured and imprisoned in the attempt.

The momentous announcement signalling the end of the hated barrier was made by Party official Guenter Schabowski.

Technically, East Germans still need visas to cross, but local police are under instructions to issue them without delay.

Turn to Page 2

OF

THE

WALL

AUGUST 20, 1961



AMERICAN DREAM

US president Ronald Reagan has been (controversially) credited with bringing about this historic event thanks to his "tear down this wall" speech, addressed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

THE WALL: Marked by a cross where many lost their lives

INSIDE: Weather 9, Comment 10, Confidential 23, TV guide 26 and 27, Cartoons and Stars 28, Letters 35, City 38 and 39, Sport starts 41

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **9 November 1989**, the concrete wall that divided a city was dramatically pulled down by its citizens

“MR GORBACHEV, TEAR DOWN THIS WALL!” RONALD REAGAN, 1987

In the dark of night, hundreds of residents of East and West Berlin gathered at the harsh concrete blockade that had separated them for decades. They began hacking at the concrete with anything they could find, even scaling it, while the stunned border guards could only look on. The Berlin Wall was falling.

The 87-mile structure surrounded West Berlin, an enclave of NATO-aligned West Germany, separating it from Soviet-occupied East Berlin. It had been placed there in 1961, and although it was officially called an “antifascist bulwark”, the main reason it stood was to stop discontented and skilled East Berliners from fleeing to the capitalist West.

The wall certainly stopped such emigration, but the closing of the border had divided families overnight, and meant that many East Germans who commuted to the West lost their livelihoods. Over 100 people died attempting to reach the other side, most notably teenager Peter Fechter, who was shot by guards.

By 1989, the tide of revolution was sweeping through Europe. The Hungarians had dismantled their electric border fence with Austria, and East Germans were fleeing to the West in droves. To ease the chaos, on 9 November the politburo decided to allow round-trip travel across the wall, a change that would come into effect the following day. However, the spokesman who informed the public had not been present at the discussions and, unaware of the details, announced that citizens could now freely cross, “effective immediately”. Jubilant men and women met each other for the first time in decades, celebrating their new-found unity with champagne, song and dance. 🍷

OPEN BORDER

It was intended that East Berliners would still have to go through a **lengthy visa application process** to cross the wall, but the chaos that followed the announcement meant that this idea was quickly abandoned.

TAXING TIMES

The Brandenburg Gate became an iconic part of the Berlin Wall, but it was actually built for the **city's original Customs Wall**, used to facilitate the levying of taxes, in 1791.

ALL FALL DOWN

When crowds of thousands arrived at the checkpoints of the Berlin Wall demanding that the gates be opened, the outnumbered border guards found themselves with no choice but to submit. Demolition began that same evening



1989 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

7 NOVEMBER In Virginia, Democrat Douglas Wilder is made state governor following the gubernatorial elections, making him the first African-American governor in the USA.

16 NOVEMBER The first western make-up store, Estée Lauder, opens in Moscow. It becomes so packed with eager women that police have to set up barricades outside.

22 NOVEMBER The President of Lebanon, René Moawad, is assassinated in Beirut just 17 days after his inauguration. A bomb exploded close to his motorcade, killing him and 23 others.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

The beating heart of the West

1800 THE WHITE HOUSE IS COMPLETED

On 1 November, the second US president moved into a brand new mansion – one that would become one of the most famous buildings in the world

The home of the US president is a name that is so iconic, it has come to represent the head of state itself. It was the first president, George Washington, who decided its location on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC, in 1791. The following year, Irish-born architect James

Hogan won a competition to design it, and after eight years of construction, President John Adams moved in. Since then, countless leaders and celebrities have been entertained there, and some of the world's most game-changing decisions have been made there.



President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901. Before that it was known as:

~~THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE~~
~~THE EXECUTIVE MANSION~~
~~THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE~~

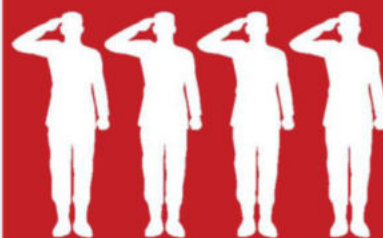
THE WHITE HOUSE
RECEIVES UP TO

100,000

VISITORS PER MONTH

KEEPING WATCH

ONLY FOUR MARINES guard the White House's West Wing. They were selected from the 180,000 members of the Marine Corps



1792

THE YEAR THE
CORNERSTONE
WAS LAID



55,000
SQUARE FEET

132 ROOMS
35 BATHROOMS
6 LEVELS
28 FIREPLACES

+RUNNING TRACK
+SWIMMING POOL
+TENNIS COURT
+CINEMA
+BOWLING LANE

The White House
kitchen is able to serve
dinner to as many as

140 GUESTS
and hors d'oeuvres to
more than
1,000

20,000

letters and emails from
the public are received
by the White House
every day – only ten are
read by the President

The White House
requires

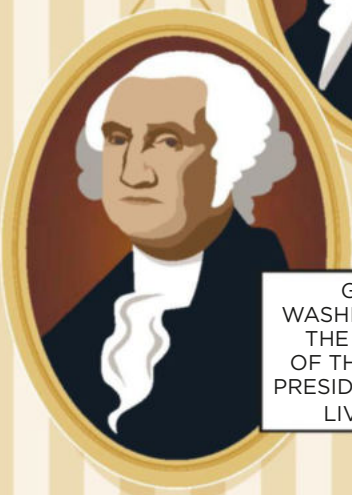
570
GALLONS
of paint to cover its
outside surface

HOME OF 43 PRESIDENTS

JOHN ADAMS
WAS THE FIRST
PRESIDENT TO
LIVE AT THE
WHITE HOUSE. HE
MOVED IN IN 1800



GEORGE
WASHINGTON WAS
THE ONLY ONE
OF THE USA'S 44*
PRESIDENTS NOT TO
LIVE THERE



10

members of the First Family
or civil servant network have
died in the White House

4 APRIL 1841

President William Henry Harrison

10 SEPTEMBER 1842

First Lady Letitia Tyler

9 JULY 1850

President Zachary Taylor

FEBRUARY 20, 1862

Willie Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln

15 DECEMBER 1873

Fredrick Dent, First Lady
Julia Grant's father

1 JANUARY 1883

Elisha Hunt Allen, Minister of the
Kingdom of Hawaii to the United States

25 OCTOBER 1892

First Lady Caroline Harrison

6 AUGUST 1914

First Lady Ellen Wilson

5 DECEMBER 1950

Charles G Ross, White House
Press Secretary

5 DECEMBER 1952

Margaret Wallace, First Lady Bess
Truman's mother

OVER 200

PRESIDENTIAL PETS

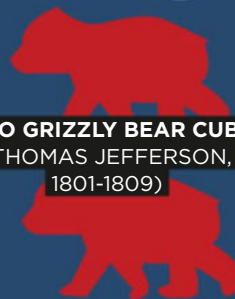
have resided at the
WHITE HOUSE
including:



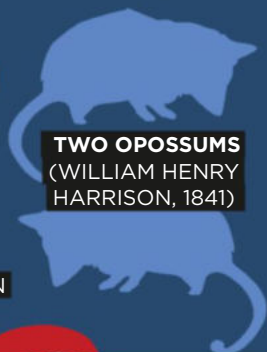
ONE HYENA
(THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
1901-1909)



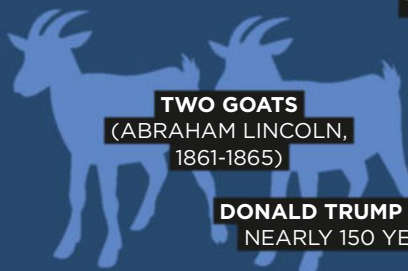
ONE ALLIGATOR
(JOHN QUINCY
ADAMS, 1825-1829)



TWO GRIZZLY BEAR CUBS
(THOMAS JEFFERSON,
1801-1809)



TWO OPOSSUMS
(WILLIAM HENRY
HARRISON, 1841)



TWO GOATS
(ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
1861-1865)

DONALD TRUMP IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT IN
NEARLY 150 YEARS NOT TO OWN A PET

THE BURNING OF WASHINGTON

In 1814, the White House was burned
down by British troops. The interior
and much of the exterior were
destroyed. Reconstruction began
almost immediately and President
James Monroe moved back in in 1817.



THE WHITE HOUSE HAS HELD

17 WEDDINGS

including those of
the daughters of
Richard Nixon and
Theodore Roosevelt



*Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms between 1885-89 and 1893-97,
making him both the 22nd and 24th president of the USA. So although Donald
Trump calls himself the 45th president, there have in fact only been 44.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The film that set a precedent for silver-screen entertainment

1952 THE FIRST 3D MOVIE IS RELEASED

Bwana Devil, the world's first feature-length three-dimensional film, springs to life in Hollywood's cinemas

As the curtains opened, the excited audience at Hollywood's Paramount Theatre donned the strange cardboard glasses they had been given. They were about to witness movie history being made with the premiere of the first full-length, full-colour, 3D picture: *Bwana Devil*.

In the previous decade, the number of cinemagoers had dropped massively, and the industry was looking for a way to revitalise itself. They say video killed the radio star, but it was television that stole Hollywood's thunder in the late 1940s. The movies had to offer something the viewer couldn't get at home – and screenwriter Milton Gunzburg thought he might have the answer.

A NEW DIMENSION

Teaming up with his brother Julian, an ophthalmologist, he created a new 3D system that could realistically be used in movie theatres across the USA: Natural Vision. It used a combination of coloured filters and Polaroid technology to achieve the desired, eerily life-like effect. After a few unsuccessful pitches to big film companies, Gunzburg struck gold when a radio producer, Arch Oboler, was wowed by their innovation. He decided to incorporate it into his next film project, *Bwana Devil*.

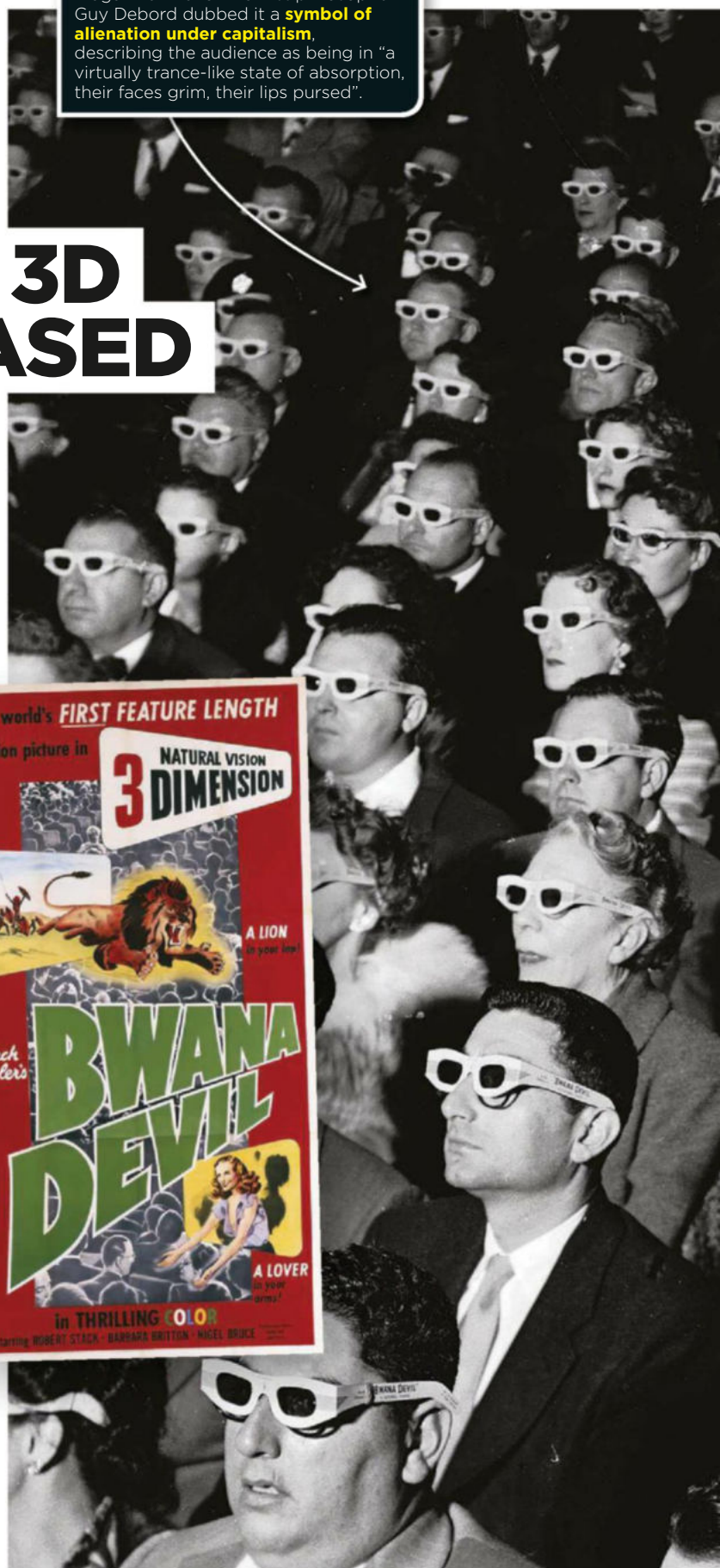
Set in the African savannah (but filmed on the cheap in the Santa Monica Mountains), the film told the story of a man put in charge of building a railway in Uganda, whose workforce increasingly falls prey to a pair of man-eating lions. Seeing no other option, he decides to take on the pesky predators himself.

Before the movie premiered, it came with a short that explained how Gunzburg's 3D invention worked. According to critics, the film itself was nothing to write home about. One scathingly wrote that it was the "worst movie" they could think of, and complained of headaches after watching it. But audiences loved it. People queued around the block to experience 3D for themselves, and *Bwana Devil* made millions of dollars at the box office.

Seeing its success, major studios quickly jumped on the 3D bandwagon. Warner Brothers chose to use Natural Vision for the horror movie *House of Wax*, which was billed as the first 3D picture released by a major studio, and others followed suit. The 20th-century craze for 3D movies had been born. 🎯

IN A TRANCE

This photo of the audience at the *Bwana Devil* premiere became iconic, and was used on the cover of *Life* magazine. French Marxist philosopher Guy Debord dubbed it a **symbol of alienation under capitalism**, describing the audience as being in "a virtually trance-like state of absorption, their faces grim, their lips pursed".





DEVIL TO PAY

Despite being a box-office success and captivating audiences across the USA, the studio recorded a **\$200,000 loss** on *Bwana Devil*.

“It is the worst movie in my rather faltering memory, and my hangover from it was so painful that I immediately went to see a two-dimensional movie for relief”

Hollis Alpert of the Saturday Review

THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

A mysterious masked convict, believed to be a threat to the French throne

1703 THE 'MAN IN THE IRON MASK' DIES IN PRISON

The elusive political prisoner passed away on 19 November 1703, without anyone ever knowing his true identity

Fans of the 1990s Leonardo DiCaprio film will know the 'Man in the Iron Mask' as a friend of the Three Musketeers, and ill-treated twin brother of King Louis XIV of France. Found by the Musketeers festering in prison, he is rescued and seeks revenge on his former captor. However, this is just one interpretation of the mystery that remains unsolved over 300 years later. All we know about the masked prisoner is that he lived an eventful, yet unhappy, existence, shunned by society and hated by the King. No evidence exists that reveals how he came to be imprisoned.

Theories abound regarding the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask. The film is based on Alexandre Dumas' 1847 novel, which popularised the idea that he was the King's twin brother, whose existence could have threatened his royal claim. Revolutionary writer Voltaire also believed this might have been the case, and it was these two

men who created the fantasy of the cast-iron mask. Though his identity has not been conclusively proved, letters uncovered recently in the French National Archives point towards a man named Eustache Dauger.

ONLY A VALET?

The first we hear of Dauger is in 1669. One of the King's ministers, the Marquis de Louvois, sent a letter to prison governor Saint-Mars in Piedmont, announcing the arrival of a new inmate. This was no ordinary jail – it was reserved specifically for a few men considered an embarrassment to the French nation. Unlike other prisoners, the governor was under strict instructions to keep Dauger silent. Only Saint-Mars himself could visit, just once a day, to feed the prisoner. A special cell was to be built, with two doors that closed upon each other – apparently to prevent anyone from outside listening to what the prisoner had to say.

Indeed, the prisoner was barely allowed to speak at all. Louvois told the governor that if the prisoner spoke of anything other than his basic needs, he was to be killed immediately. Rumour has it that two musketeers were by his side at all times, ready to perform this grisly duty. However, the presumptuous Valois assumed that Dauger would not require much, as he was "only a valet".

While in prison, he put his skills to use, and apparently worked as a servant to the disgraced finance minister Nicholas Fouquet, who was incarcerated because he had embezzled money from the King's treasury. But as Dauger was guarded at all times, his jailers ensured that he could say nothing of what he knew. Perhaps they need not have worried so much – Saint-Mars allegedly reported back to his

"A man is held to be criminal, sometimes, not because he has committed a crime himself but because he knows of one which has been committed"

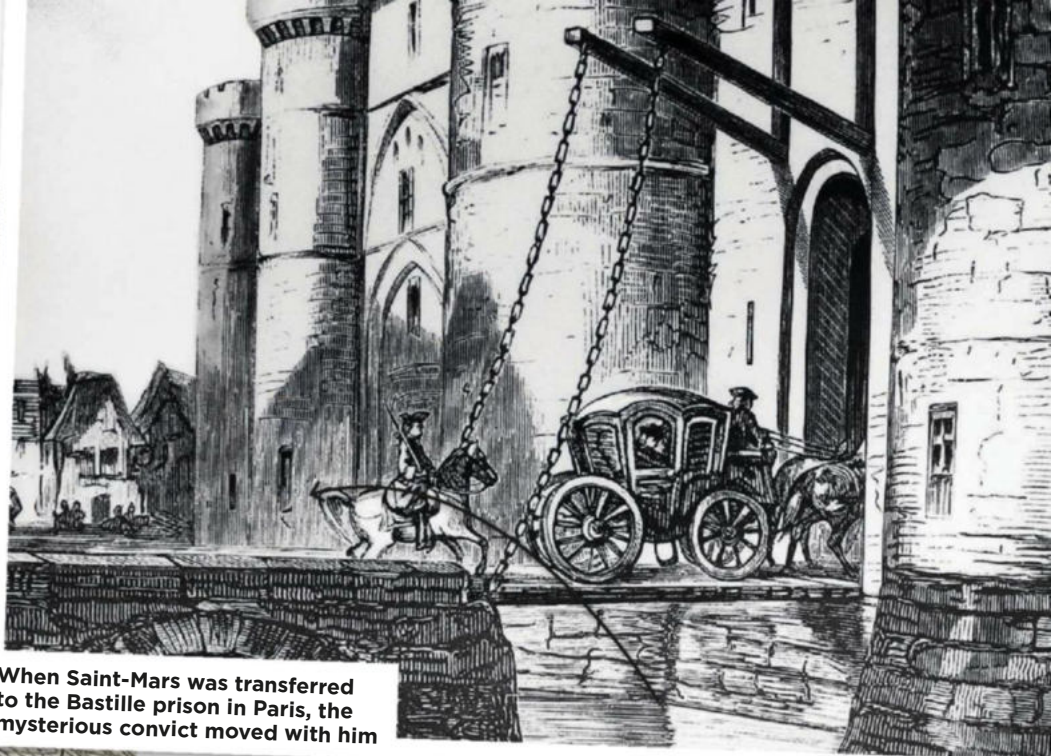
Alexandre Dumas in his novel, The Man in the Iron Mask



Leonardo DiCaprio in the 1998 film, *The Man in the Iron Mask*

A LOT ON HIS PLATE?

One popular myth is that the Man in the Iron Mask wrote **messages to the outside world on his crockery**, which he then threw out of his cell window. The prison governor Saint-Mars did indeed complain of such instances in a letter dated 1692, but the culprit was a **different man entirely** – an imprisoned Protestant minister named Salves.



When Saint-Mars was transferred to the Bastille prison in Paris, the mysterious convict moved with him



MASKING THE TRUTH

It was French writer and philosopher Voltaire who first claimed that the prisoner wore an **iron mask, rather than a cloth one**, in his 1771 *Questions sur l'Encyclopédie*. Since then, the image has stuck.

superiors that his enigmatic prisoner was an incredibly quiet man, “disposed to the will of God and to the King”.

When Saint-Mars was promoted and transferred to the notorious Bastille in 1698, Daurer went with him. Here, he would spend the last five years of his life in isolation. An employee of the Bastille noted in his diary that the prisoner wore a black velvet mask – not one made from iron, as Dumas described.

DESTROYING THE EVIDENCE

On 19 November 1703, the masked prisoner died, aged approximately 45. He was buried the next day under the mysterious name ‘Marchioli’. Furthermore, his cell was stripped bare, whitewashed, the wooden furniture burned, and metal objects melted down. Clearly, the Bastille wanted to remove all traces of his existence.

Since we know very little of the truth, the King and his allies must have been successful in destroying the evidence. The Man in the Iron Mask’s identity, crime, or deadly secret has never been revealed. Though Daurer seems a likely candidate, at this stage it is still just speculation. In a recent book, a professor at the University of California claims that Daurer was a valet who stumbled upon a royal scam, and was swiftly placed at His Majesty’s pleasure. Other historians continue to investigate

whether the masked man was the King’s brother after all, or a member of the nobility who had fallen out of favour.

For instance, another theory places the mask onto Italian count Mattioli, who shared a similar name to the ‘Marchioli’ recorded on the prisoner’s death certificate. Mattioli mediated the purchase of an Italian fortress owned by the Duke of Mantua to the French King, but greedily stashed the money away for himself, and humiliated Louis by revealing the purchase to France’s enemies. He was swiftly incarcerated and placed under solitary confinement.

The lack of answers to the question of the man’s identity hasn’t taken the shine off this curious case one bit. Numerous films, television shows and books continue to feed our interest in history’s most elusive prisoner. Whatever the true story is, it has great implications for the old French royal dynasty – who were overthrown, partly due to their profligate spending and widespread corruption. Did the Iron Mask discover something that the monarchy realised could cost them their throne, or even their lives? Frustratingly, we might never know. 🕒



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Think you’ve sussed out the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask? Let us know!
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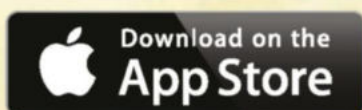


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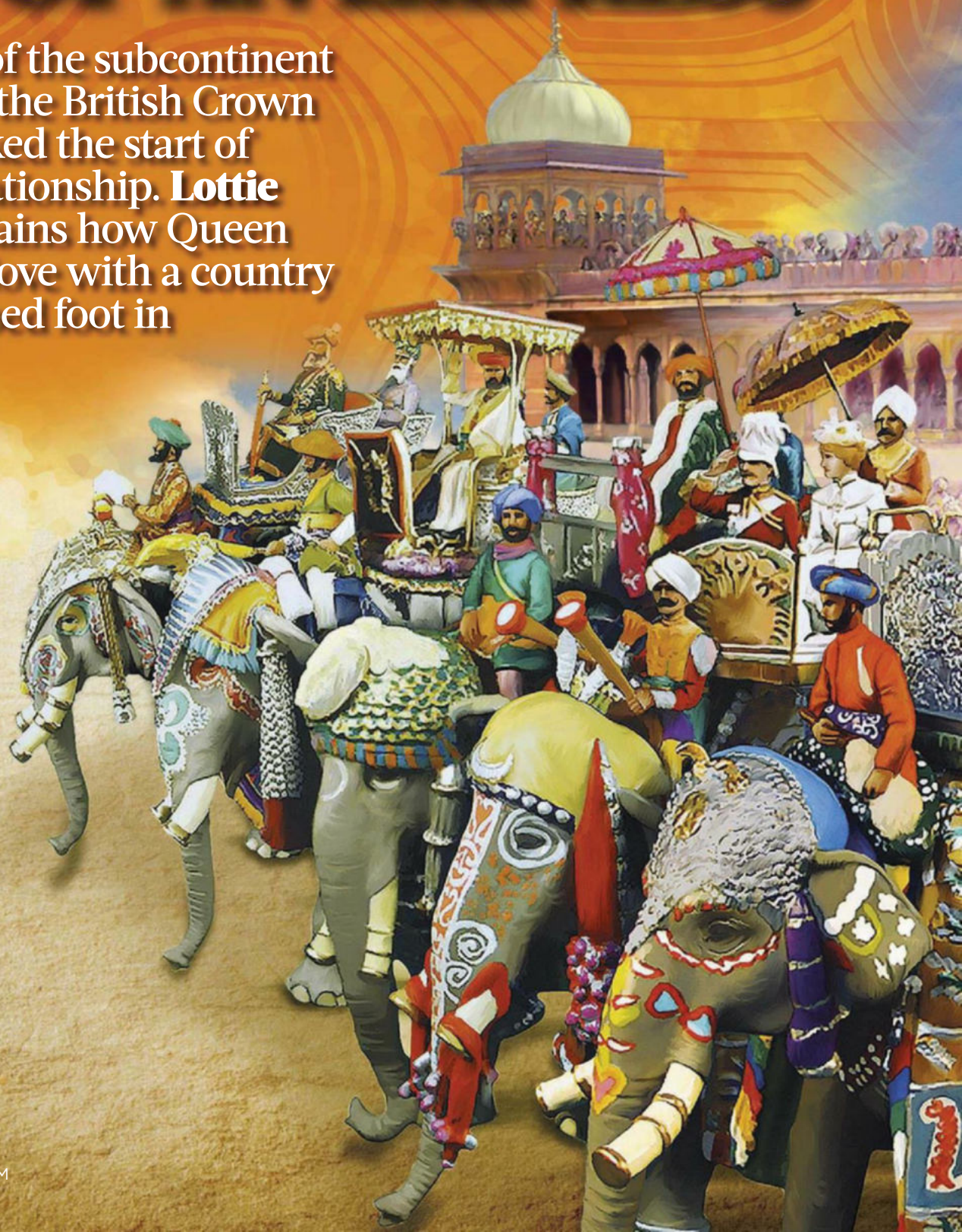
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VICTORIA

RISE OF AN EMPRESS

When control of the subcontinent was handed to the British Crown in 1858, it marked the start of a turbulent relationship. **Lottie Goldfinch** explains how Queen Victoria fell in love with a country she never stepped foot in





On 1 January 1877, while Queen Victoria was quietly celebrating the new year with her family at Windsor Castle, a spectacular celebration was taking place more than 4,000 miles away in Delhi, India, to mark the Queen's new imperial role as Empress of India. Determined to flaunt the power and majesty of the British Raj, Lord Lytton, Viceroy of India, chose to revive Mughal traditions for the extravaganza, confident that it would be well received. A plan was coordinated to present leading Indian chiefs and princes with shield-shaped silk banners emblazoned with their coat of arms, albeit in a deliberate European style – “the further east you go, the greater becomes the importance of a bit of bunting”, the Viceroy is recorded as saying. By the end of 1876, more than 400 Indian princes, chiefs, officials and their retinues had gathered together in Delhi in preparation for the grand ceremony.

The resulting pageant was a sumptuous demonstration of British authority. The Viceroy and

his family processed through the streets of Delhi on elephants, entering the specially constructed Throne Pavilion to a fanfare of trumpets and royal salutes.

For the proclamation ceremony itself, Lord Lytton sat enthroned beneath a huge portrait of Queen-Empress Victoria. Facing him were 63 ruling Indian chiefs, “all in gorgeous costumes of satin, velvet or cloth of gold”. A telegram sent by Lytton to the Queen later that day expressed his satisfaction and delight at the occasion: “There can be no question of the complete success of this great imperial ceremony,” he announced happily.

THE ROAD TO INDIA

The elaborate proclamation ceremony may have, on the surface at least, neatly papered over the cracks in Anglo-Indian relations, but resentment and anger at British involvement in Indian affairs had been simmering for more than 300 years, well before Victoria came to the throne.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Victoria became queen, the Empire stood at 2 million square miles. Twenty-five years later, it had grown to 9.5m square miles

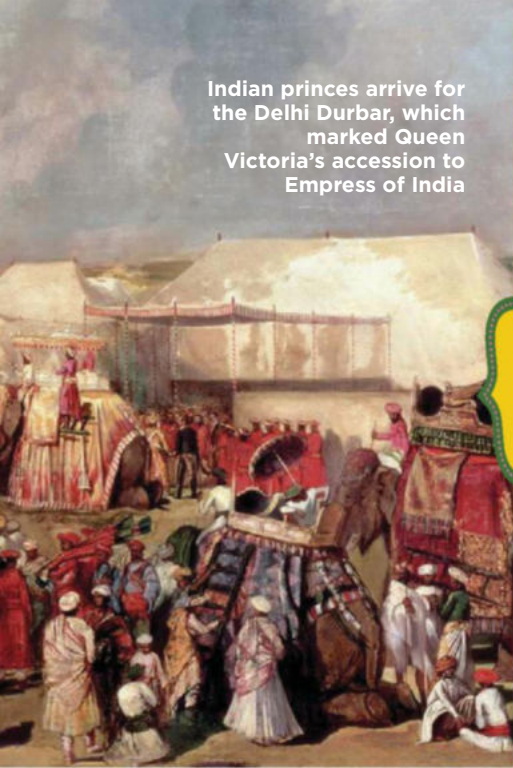


“Britain had desired a share in the profitable Indian spice trade”

East India Company officers are entertained by Indian musicians and dancers. The company ruled parts of the subcontinent between 1757 and 1858



Indian princes arrive for the Delhi Durbar, which marked Queen Victoria's accession to Empress of India



INDIAN INFLUENCE ON BRITAIN

LANGUAGE

Words of Hindi and Urdu origin soon infiltrated the English language. 'Pyjamas' comes from the Urdu word *payjamaḥ*, meaning leg garment, while 'shampoo' is from the Hindi word *chāmpo*, meaning to press and knead.

SPORT

The modern game of polo originated in northeast India in circa AD 33, and was adopted by English plantation owners in Assam from c1854. The sport was later popularised by the British upper classes.

FASHION

Materials such as cotton and silk, accessed through trade with India, were increasingly used in British clothing. Indian-inspired patterns such as paisley also became popular in fashion.

FOOD

Once Indian spices were widely available in Britain, curries and chillies featured regularly in the British diet. London's first Indian restaurant opened in 1810, but it was Victoria's love of curry that made its popularity spread.

DRINK

Indian tea culture gave rise to the tradition of afternoon tea, together with the establishment of tea shops and tea rooms. Victoria's expansion of trade with India made products such as tea cheaper and more plentiful.

BRITISH INFLUENCE ON INDIA

EDUCATION

The British wished to create "a properly articulated system of education from the primary school to the university", and vernacular education and mass education were deemed incredibly important. In 1857, universities were established in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

POSTAL SERVICE

The Indian Post Office was established in 1837, with the first adhesive stamp following in 1852. Under the British Raj, the postal system expanded rapidly, with 889 post offices handling some 43m letters and more than 4.5m newspapers annually by 1861.

SPORT

The first reference of a cricket match being played in India is in 1721, by sailors of the East India Company, and from there the sport grew. The start of first-class cricket in the country is said to have been a match between Madras and Calcutta in 1864.

COMMON LAW SYSTEM

India's tradition of Hindu and Islamic law was broken under the British Raj in favour of British common law – a system of law based on recorded judicial precedents.

LANGUAGE

In 1837, English became the official language of Indian law courts, and in 1844, preference in government posts was given to those who had received an English education. It also became the accepted language of the social elite and national press.

British presence in India had begun in 1600, with the formation of the East India Company (EIC) – a company whose purpose was to exploit trade with East and Southeast Asia and India. For years, Britain had desired a share in the rich and profitable East Indian spice trade monopolised by Spain and Portugal, and in 1588, the defeat of the Spanish Armada had helped break European domination of the market. Despite Dutch opposition, England won trading concessions from the Mughal Empire and began to trade in cotton and silk, fabric goods, indigo dye, saltpetre (used to preserve meat and also make explosives) and spices.

The Company's first ships arrived at the Indian port of Surat in 1608, and in 1619 a factory was established in the same city with the permission of the Mughal emperor Jahangir. By the 18th century, the EIC had expanded massively, eclipsing its European rivals and establishing several trading posts and communities along the east and west coasts of the Indian subcontinent.

But in 1757, the company's fortunes took a different turn. East India Company civil-servant-turned-military-man, Robert Clive, defeated the Nawab (governor) of Bengal and his French allies at the Battle of Plassey. It was a clash that, in part, had erupted over EIC abuse of the trade privileges that had been granted to them.

The British victory enabled the company to take over the administration of large parts of India, with British communities established around Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Seven years later, the young Mughal emperor Shah

LIONS AND TIGERS

Life in the British Raj

The majority of the first British inhabitants in India were men who enjoyed the luxuries the country could offer, at a small cost to themselves – Indian servants, mistresses and fine dining were all enjoyed with gusto. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, however, made travel between India and Britain a lot quicker, and British women and families began to make the move.

Tensions between Britons and India's native population remained in the wake of the Indian Rebellion of 1857, exacerbated by the air of racial superiority with which Britain viewed the subcontinent. It was, in the thoughts of many Victorians, a country that needed to be held in trust until its people were deemed civilized and competent for self-rule.

The British community in India may have kept itself separate from Indian communities but it was not immune to the perils of the country's climate. The average lifespan for an Englishman in India was 31; for an Englishwoman just 28. Cholera, typhoid, malaria and dysentery were just some of the dangers facing British men and women.

Despite this, many British reformers were determined to bring western technologies and ways of life to India. In 1853, the first Indian railway opened, stretching from Bombay to Thana, while the machines introduced during the Industrial Revolution made major changes to agriculture. Roads, canals and bridges were all introduced, together with telegraph links.

Big game hunting was a popular pastime for these Brits abroad. It is estimated that in the 50 years between 1875 and 1925, 80,000 tigers were slaughtered



Though she was just 18 when she inherited the crown, Victoria took a keen and active interest in political affairs

“The impact on the Indian states under the company's rule was disastrous”

Alam too was defeated by EIC troops and exiled from Delhi. His Mughal revenue officials in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were

replaced by a set of English traders who had been appointed by Clive, who was now governor of Bengal.

From this moment, the EIC morphed from an international trading corporation into a privately owned colonial power, becoming the effective rulers of Bengal and expanding its territory at an alarming rate.

The impact on the Indian states under the company's rule was disastrous. Far from wishing to preserve and nurture its newly gained territories, men of the EIC plundered and pillaged Bengal, leaving it in a state of destitution. Crippling taxes destroyed the economic resources of the rural population, compounded by a devastating famine between 1769 and 1773, which is thought to have caused the deaths of up to 10 million people.

Huge military expenditure saw the EIC run into serious financial difficulties, and in 1773, the British government was forced to step in and help the ailing company, with William Pitt's India Act of 1784 seeking to bring it under closer

parliamentary supervision, namely through the rule of a governor-general.

But the EIC continued to expand and by 1803, its reach extended up the Ganges valley to Delhi and across most of the peninsula of southern India. Fifteen years later, the EIC had become the main political power in India, with direct control over around two thirds of the subcontinent.

EARLY EMPIRE

When Victoria ascended the throne in 1837, few would have predicted how far British influence would spread during her reign. Imperial expansion had been haphazard, and predominately the result of victory in military conflicts or settlements founded by Britons seeking new lives abroad.

At the start of the 19th century, most of Britain's jumbled collection of territories – such as Canada, South Africa and Guiana – had been unintentionally acquired by previous monarchs, rather than as a result of a deliberate programme of expansion. These territories were only partly administered by government, with chartered companies such as the East India Company holding significant power.

At her accession, the inexperienced Queen was initially content to follow the instruction of her advisors when it came to matters of foreign policy. But,



In her diary, Victoria wrote of Abdul: "He is so good and gentle and understanding all I want and is a real comfort to me"

DID YOU KNOW?

All correspondence between Victoria and Abdul was burned following the Queen's death, on the orders of her son Edward VII

AN UNLIKELY ROMANCE

Victoria and Abdul

Twenty-four-year-old Abdul Karim arrived in Britain in 1887 as a 'gift from India', to serve Queen Victoria on the occasion of her golden jubilee. Within a year of his arrival, he had become Victoria's *munshi* (teacher), instructing her in Hindustani and Indian affairs. Their friendship blossomed, to the horror of her family, and now the story has been transformed into a new film - *Victoria and Abdul*. **Alice Barnes-Brown** spoke to actor **Ali Fazal** to find out what it was like to play a character who has since been erased from history.



Ali Fazal as Abdul Karim in Stephen Frears' new film *Victoria and Abdul*, with Dame Judi Dench as the Queen

Q Why do you think Victoria took such a shine to Abdul, so quickly?

A He talked to her like a human, and not under protocol. He looked at her as one human would look at another, and that's what I think was really attractive for her. I think she was just sick of people agreeing with her the whole time, being nice to her, and just being British!

Q What did you find most fascinating from your research about Abdul?

A You could see a lot about him from the letters. I think my 'buy' into this film was these two letters I saw, one in really well-written Urdu and one in this beautiful English handwriting. The Urdu one was Queen Victoria, and the English one was written by Abdul Karim. It was just role reversal, so ironic. That visual sticks with me.

Q What's Victoria's legacy in India?

A Well, we've had a rough couple of centuries. I don't think Victoria is the most hailed celebrity back in India. Even today you see these wonderful black marble statues of her just lying about, they've been taken down and thrown away. I guess rightly so, I don't blame them because we've all been through a lot. We're still in shambles, so there is that resentment.

Q Is that reflected in the film?

A I like that it doesn't really glorify British rule, and it gives you a true account of what was happening on both sides. But even in the middle of all that, the Queen and Abdul were just trying to be human about this whole affair, even though their relationship seemed wrong to others. That's something I hope people see in this film.

Q How did you balance Abdul's kindness with his ambition?

A Abdul was educated in a *madrasa* - a bit like home schooling. I think he saw through everything around him, but he also has a sort of innocence, and the ability to love came naturally to him. We're not born haters, we become haters.

Q What do you hope viewers will learn from your portrayal of Abdul?

A Just a better world view, I guess. I think they need to learn that it's not a bad thing to climb the ladder of success and be smart about it, be a little manipulative about it. There were a lot of Indians like Abdul working for the British at the time, because that was the government. There wasn't anything wrong with what Abdul did - everybody was doing it.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE

THE RISE...

16th century to 1900

The expansion of Britain's empire is often divided into two parts: the first empire and the second empire. The establishment of Britain's overseas territories began in the 16th century, and by 1783, its empire included colonies in the Americas and the West Indies. The first British settlement in Africa was made at James Island in the Gambia River in 1661. This first stage of the empire is said to have ended after the loss of American colonies in 1783.

But it was in the 19th century that a second worldwide British Empire was built, and it is during this period that Britain experienced unprecedented expansion of its overseas landholdings. By the end of the century, the British Empire comprised nearly one-quarter of the world's land surface and more than 25 per cent of its total population. The last 20 years of the 19th century alone saw the Empire absorb 30 per cent of Africa's entire population.

CANADA

After Great Britain's victory over the French in the Seven Years' War of 1756-63, the Treaty of Paris was agreed, which ceded New France, of which Canada was a part, to the British Empire. It remains part of the Commonwealth.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child born in North America to English parents, at the Roanoke Colony

THE WEST INDIES

With Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World followed a race between the European powers to colonise the islands of the Caribbean. In 1912, the British territories were divided into eight colonies: the Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Windward Islands and the Leeward Islands. Most gained independence in the 1960s-80s.

...AND THE FALL

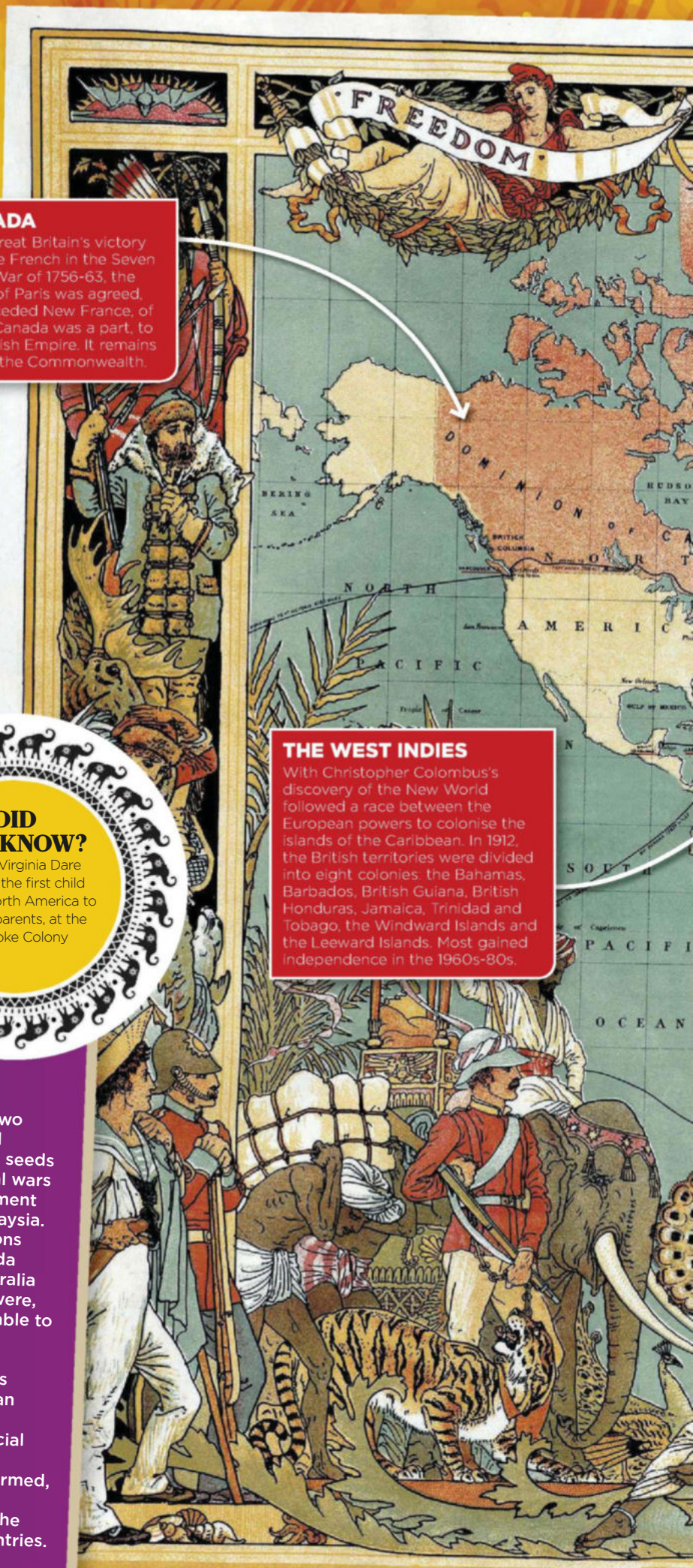
1945 to present day

The Empire began its steady decline in the wake of the two world wars, which had left Britain significantly weakened economically. Indian independence in 1947 had sown the seeds for change and in the 1950s, wishing to avoid the colonial wars that France was fighting with Algeria, the British government granted independence to Sudan, the Gold Coast and Malaysia.

Many of Britain's colonies had already become dominions of Britain by the time the Empire began to decline. Canada became Britain's first dominion, in 1867, followed by Australia in 1901 and New Zealand in 1907. These former colonies were, in principle, still attached to the British Crown, but were able to exercise certain agreed rights.

Most of Britain's Caribbean territories achieved their independence over the next 20 years or so, with Barbados leaving in 1966 and the remainder of the eastern Caribbean islands in the 1970s and 1980s. For many, the final end to the Empire came in 1997, when Hong Kong became a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China.

In 1949, the voluntary Commonwealth of Nations was formed, initially comprising eight independent member states, of which most were former territories of the Empire. Today, the Commonwealth is home to 2.4 billion people from 52 countries.



In 1820, some 5,000 British settlers arrived at Cape Town in South Africa – a key port on the trade route to India. Over the next eight decades, they would fight the Boers for control of the region. South Africa gained full sovereignty from the UK in 1931.

The British first colonised Australia in 1788. It is estimated that during the first two years of settlement, 90 per cent of the local indigenous population was wiped out.

SERIAL FEDERATION, - MAP OF THE WORLD SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 1886.
STATISTICAL INFORMATION FURNISHED BY CAPTAIN J.C.R. COLOMB, M.P. FORMERLY R.M.A. BRITISH TERRITORIES COLOURED RED.

with eleven wars fought during the first quarter of her reign alone, Victoria soon began to take a keen interest in British affairs abroad. Although she no longer had the power to make or break governments as she saw fit, Victoria took her queenly duty to advise, consult and warn seriously, and ultimately helped shape government policy.

One of her chief demands was that military consequences be considered first and foremost, if Britain was to pursue the type of aggressive foreign policy that it had become famous for in the 19th century. Supportive though she was of Britain's imperial 'duty' to spread civilisation to the darkest corners of the globe, Queen Victoria was deeply concerned for the fate of the ordinary soldier who was putting his life on the line for his country.

But the people Victoria sought to rule did not always take British colonisation lying down. One of the biggest events of her rule took place in India, where, in 1857, widespread unrest at increasing westernisation, challenges to traditional Hindu culture and British dominance in all areas of Indian life exploded into a mass uprising against the EIC's rule and the authority of the British Crown.

The rebellion began in March 1857, when an Indian *sepo*y (soldier) named Mangal Pandey attacked officers at the garrison in Barrackpore, North Calcutta,

of sepoys were bayoneted or fired at with cannons, and even women and children failed to escape the reprisals. Around 100,000 Indian soldiers are believed to have died in the mutiny, although historian Amaresh Misra claims that British reprisals continued for a decade after the event, with millions more killed.

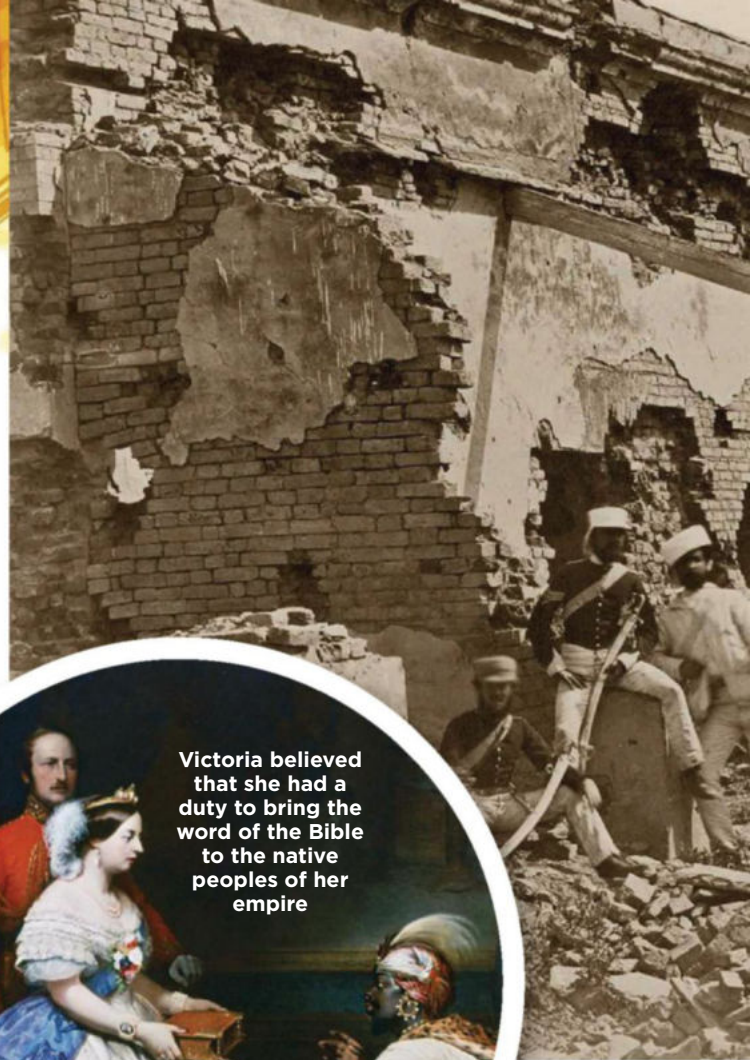
BRITISH IMPERIAL DUTY

When news of the uprising reached Britain, there was widespread public horror at the level of bloodshed on both sides of the conflict. Newspaper headlines shouted of the massacre of captured Europeans – including women and children – by the rebels, as well as the indiscriminate killing of Indian civilians at the hands of the British armies.

Queen Victoria herself followed the uprising closely, writing in her diary for 3 August: "Dreadful details in the papers of the horrors committed in India on poor



Victoria believed that she had a duty to bring the word of the Bible to the native peoples of her empire



and those who believed that those living in its colonies would never be able to reach the same level of development as those living in Britain.

People such as Cecil Rhodes, a dedicated imperialist, believed the empire should be run and ultimately populated by members of the 'Anglo-Saxon' race, who had a duty to found colonies and populate them with men and women who would advance Britain's power.

"There is a destiny now possible for us, the highest ever set before a nation... This is what England must do or perish: she must found colonies as fast and as far as she is able, formed of her most energetic and worthiest men; seizing every bit of fruitful waste ground she can set her foot on, and there teaching these her colonists that the chief virtue is to be fidelity to their country and their first aim... to advance the power of England."

ROYAL RESPONSE

Like many of her subjects, Victoria, while believing in many of the ideals of empire, was not wholly unsympathetic to the men and women of the nations

"The people Victoria sought to rule did not always take colonisation lying down"

and was subsequently executed. A few weeks later, trouble erupted again when a group of soldiers were imprisoned at Meerut for refusing to use gun cartridges rumoured to have been greased in pork fat, as it offended their religious beliefs. The two incidents and the harsh punishments inflicted on the perpetrators led to a military uprising in May, which saw Indian soldiers shoot their British officers and march on Delhi. Word spread quickly, and similar mutinies took place across all of northern India.

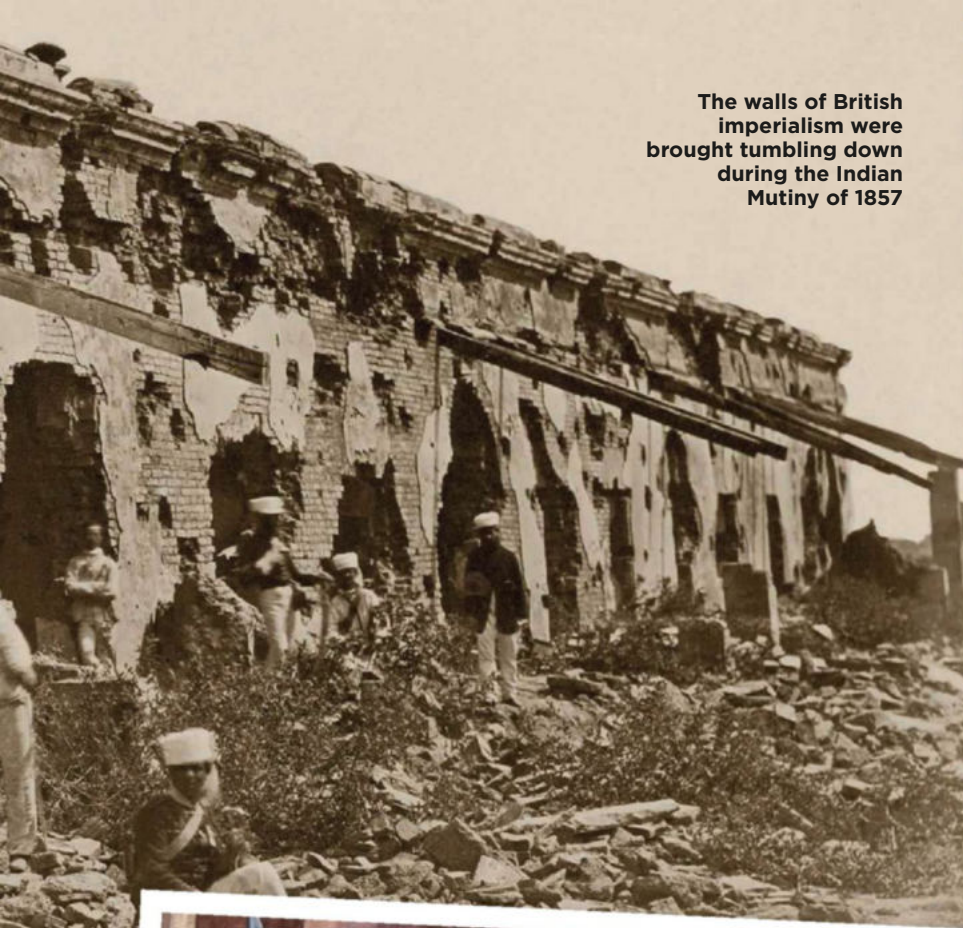
The British acted quickly to suppress the rebellion, and the desperate struggles for Indian independence were quelled in a flurry of bloodshed. Thousands

ladies and children, who were murdered with revolting barbarity! An awful state, and the crisis, in every sense, an alarming one..."

But despite widespread condemnation of the violence, voices of sympathy to those involved were also raised, and many Britons – including Victoria – still retained a sense of imperial duty that continued to have a profound influence on its colonial expansion. In places like India and Africa, this had historically manifested in an influx of Christian evangelicals, many of whom sought to convert native peoples to Christianity.

The nation was divided between those who believed it was Britain's duty to Christianise the people of its empire,

The walls of British imperialism were brought tumbling down during the Indian Mutiny of 1857



Q&A

The impact of British rule



DR XAVIER GUÉGAN

is Senior Lecturer in Colonial and Postcolonial History at the University of Winchester. He publishes and lectures on British Indian and French Algerian history.

Q How did East India Company rule and Crown rule of India differ?

A The 18th-century mercantile system, which revealed corruption on the part of the East India Company, was replaced by more direct colonisation and an economic, social and cultural imperialism that left little space for Indians' voice in their own country.

Q Did British rule after 1858 bring more negatives than positives for India's population?

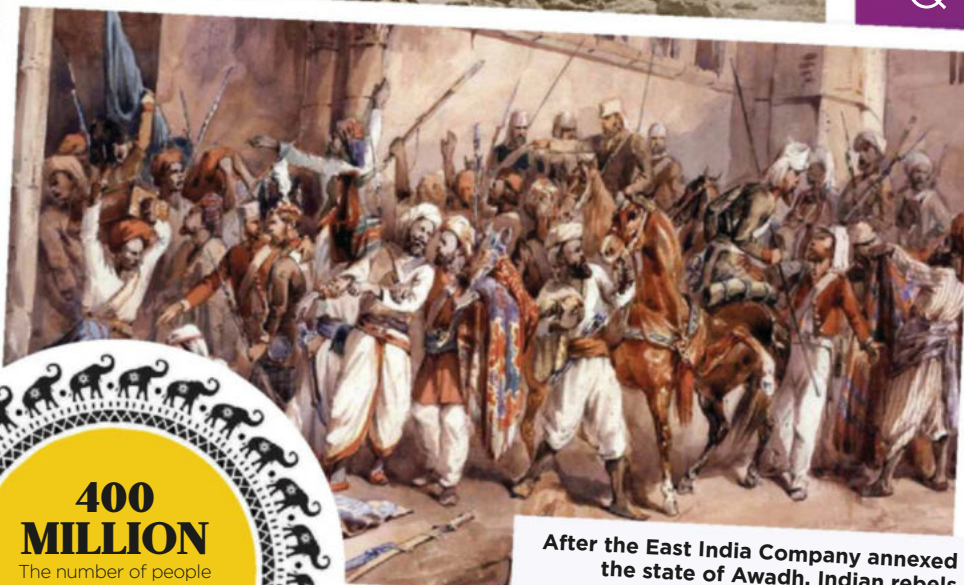
A From the 1820s, the British government via the East India Company colonised further territory, justified on moral and economic grounds: the events of 1857-58 were a reaction to these changes. The official transfer of power to the Crown in 1858 further reduced decision-making by Indians, limited freedom of speech, and introduced the infamous 'divide and rule' policy that strongly disturbed the harmony within communities, especially religious differences.

High taxation and the establishment of the cash crop system orientated to industries in Britain meant that no real internal industrialisation was possible for the subcontinent. On a more positive aspect, the second empire meant the increase of movement of people across the world, and gender issues (here meaning women, and not other minorities) began to be debated. We should not idealise India before the time of the British rule, but nor

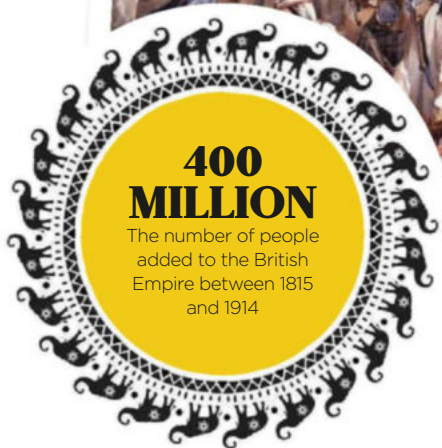
should we romanticise British colonialism as beneficial. What is certain, however, is that India has benefitted the Britain of yesterday and today.

Q How did Indian people view British presence in India?

A The Sahibs and Memsahibs were a very small minority in a large country. Thus they had to show, via the 'Illusion of Permanence', both their physical presence and the visibility of their rule through the establishment of cultural and economic signs such as monuments, new buildings and technology (photography, the railway, etc.). If the Indian population was indeed under the control of British colonisation, many areas such as rural villages were not directly confronted by Crown rule. Yet lives were affected by Western globalisation, and Indian thinkers, artists and political activists were well aware of this influence.



After the East India Company annexed the state of Awadh, Indian rebels mutinied and seized back control



The number of people added to the British Empire between 1815 and 1914

she wished to rule, and had reservations about some of the methods of colonisation employed.

In the wake of the Indian Rebellion, the British Parliament had passed the Government of India Act, which transferred the administrative authority and rights of the EIC to the British Crown. Wishing to reassure the Indian people of their rights as British subjects and to help restore peace in the country, Victoria issued a proclamation on 1 November 1858 that became known as

'the Magnacarta of the People of India'. In it, Victoria stated that Britain desired "no extensions of Our present territorial possessions" and promised to "respect the rights, dignity, and honour of Native Princes as Our own".

Religious toleration was also assured with the line "we disclaim alike the Right and Desire to impose our Convictions on any of Our Subjects" with "none molested or disquieted by reason of their Religious Faith or Observances..." And with that, India was annexed to the British Empire.

Of course, ruling a country as vast as India would not have been possible without the cooperation of its princes and local leaders. During the period that followed the 1857 rebellion – known as

COVER STORY VICTORIA: RISE OF AN EMPRESS

the British Raj – some 20,000 British troops and officials were able to govern 300 million Indian people with relatively little trouble. Some historians have attributed this to British divide and rule techniques, which played on the many divisions in Indian society, while others have claimed that India was actually accepting of British rule and the benefits it brought.

A NEW ERA

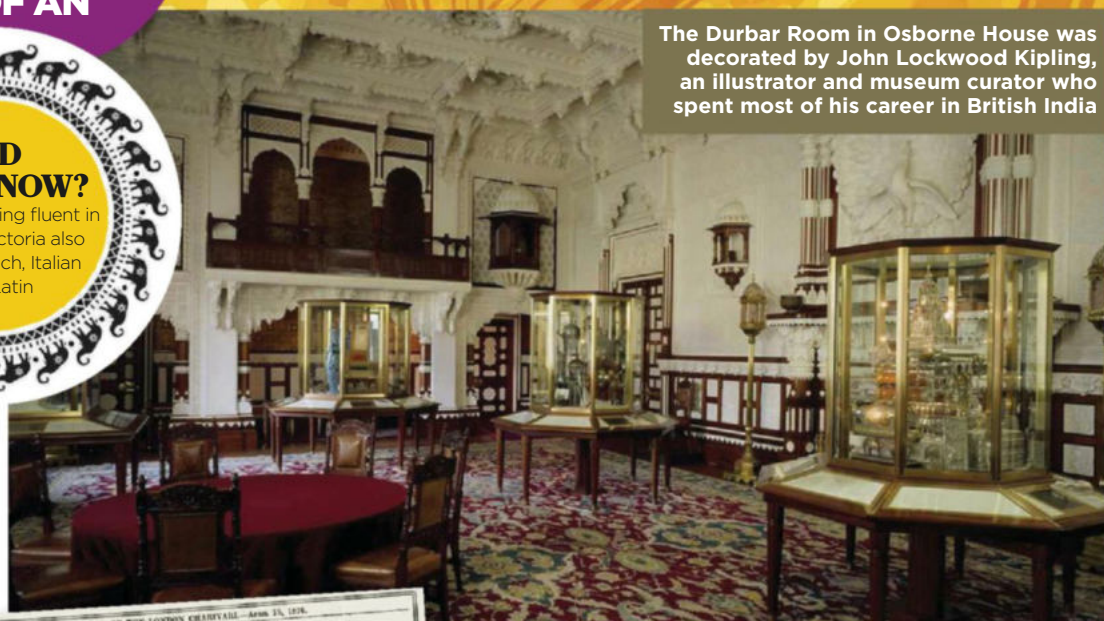
Although she didn't officially assume the title of Empress of India until 1877, Victoria's keenness to elevate her royal title was evident as early as 1873 when she complained to her secretary Henry Ponsonby: "I am an Empress and in common conversation am sometimes called Empress of India. Why have I never officially assumed this title?"

Her eagerness to assume the title had begun in 1871, following William I of Prussia's elevation to Emperor. Victoria's daughter, Vicky, who was married to William's son Frederick would therefore become Empress when her husband took the throne, effectively outranking her mother. Victoria was not amused. Prussia, Russia and Austria all had emperors and Victoria felt unable to compete unless she, too, assumed the title.

Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli was the force behind overcoming parliamentary opposition and in 1877, Victoria became Empress of India, sealing the relationship between Britain and India. It also marked the beginning of the Queen's love affair with India and

DID YOU KNOW?

As well as being fluent in German, Victoria also spoke French, Italian and Latin



The Durbar Room in Osborne House was decorated by John Lockwood Kipling, an illustrator and museum curator who spent most of his career in British India



became a symbol of the responsibility she felt towards her Indian subjects.

Although she never visited the subcontinent – her son Edward VII would be the first British monarch

“A passion for Indian culture swept through Britain”

Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, re-imagined as an eastern merchant in this *Punch* cartoon, offers the Indian crown to Victoria

to set foot on Indian soil – Victoria had a particular fascination with the country, and a passion for Indian culture swept through Britain in the late 19th century. Victoria's love of curry is well documented, while at Osborne House, the royal family's Isle of Wight seaside retreat, the magnificent Durbar room was added in 1890–92, designed by John Lockwood Kipling and Sikh architect Bhairam Singh. Built for state functions, the room boasts intricate Indian-style plaster work and exhibited the Queen's magnificent collections of gifts from Indian princes.

Britain's wider relationship with India – the jewel in the crown of the Empire – would continue for nearly half a century more, however, with both Edward VII and George V retaining the title Victoria had fought so hard for. British rule would end eventually – with as much pomp and circumstance as it had begun – but to this day, ties with India remain as hardy as the toughest diamond. 📍

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

On 15 August 1947, after more than 300 years of British control, India finally achieved its independence. But its route to freedom had come at a high price. Official calls had begun as early as 1885 with the founding of the Indian National

Congress, the first modern nationalist movement to emerge in the British Empire in Asia and Africa. The movement initially sought a greater share in government, but with continued British opposition, its demands became more radical. Gandhi, who became the

main voice of the Indian National Congress, transformed it into a mass movement, advocating civil disobedience. He believed that no lasting reform was possible with an alien government, and instigated strikes, marches and boycotts.

World War II did much to aid India's call for independence. During the conflict, Britain had called upon its colonies for manpower and, in order to secure Indian support, promised to hand over political power in exchange for cooperation. India's contribution to the allied war effort was immense, with some 2.3 million soldiers manning the Indian army.

When independence eventually arrived, the country was divided into two independent dominions – Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan. The British Raj had ended, but partition plunged the subcontinent into a new era of blood and brutality.

Viscount Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India, with his wife and Gandhi in 1947



GET HOOKED

BOOK

Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India by Shashi Tharoor (C Hurst & Co, 2017) or *India Conquered: Britain's Raj and the Chaos of Empire* by Jon Wilson (Simon & Schuster, 2016).

WATCH

Victoria and Abdul, directed by Stephen Frears, is in cinemas across the UK and US now.

ESCAPE FROM COLDITZ



SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, MAJOR PAT REID BRAVED BARBED WIRE, SEARCHLIGHTS AND ARMED GUARDS TO *ESCAPE FROM COLDITZ*. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DO THE SAME



The daring story of the Allied escapes from Colditz Castle has become the stuff of legend. Set on a rocky outcrop in the heart of Hitler's Reich, with seven-foot-thick walls and a 250-foot drop to the River Mulde below, Oflag IV-C, as Colditz Castle was known, was supposed to be impenetrable.

Yet, through sheer ingenuity, bravery and determination, more than 30 Dutch, Belgian, French, Polish and British prisoners managed to make their escape. In the years since, their stories have been immortalised in books, films, TV shows and games, notably in *Escape from Colditz*, the classic board game created in collaboration with Major Pat Reid OBE, a British Army officer who successfully escaped from Colditz. Now, 75 years on from his miraculous escape, the definitive edition of this iconic game could be yours.

Faithful recreation

The 75th anniversary edition of *Escape from Colditz* includes original and updated rules, stunning new artwork by Peter Dennis, a 32-page book and replicas of artefacts from the prison. Players take the role of Allied escape officers, and work to assemble their equipment, plot their escape routes, and coordinate their efforts to avoid the guards. Meanwhile, one person plays as a German security officer, and must use guile, ruthlessness and careful observation to stymie the Allied attempts.

Designed by Major Pat Reid and Brian Degas, screenwriter of the renowned BBC series *Colditz*, this legendary game brilliantly captures the drama, tension and excitement of the attempts to break out from the inescapable fortress. If you want to test your ingenuity, then there's just one question...

Do you have what it takes to escape from Colditz?

100
YEARS OF THE
TANK



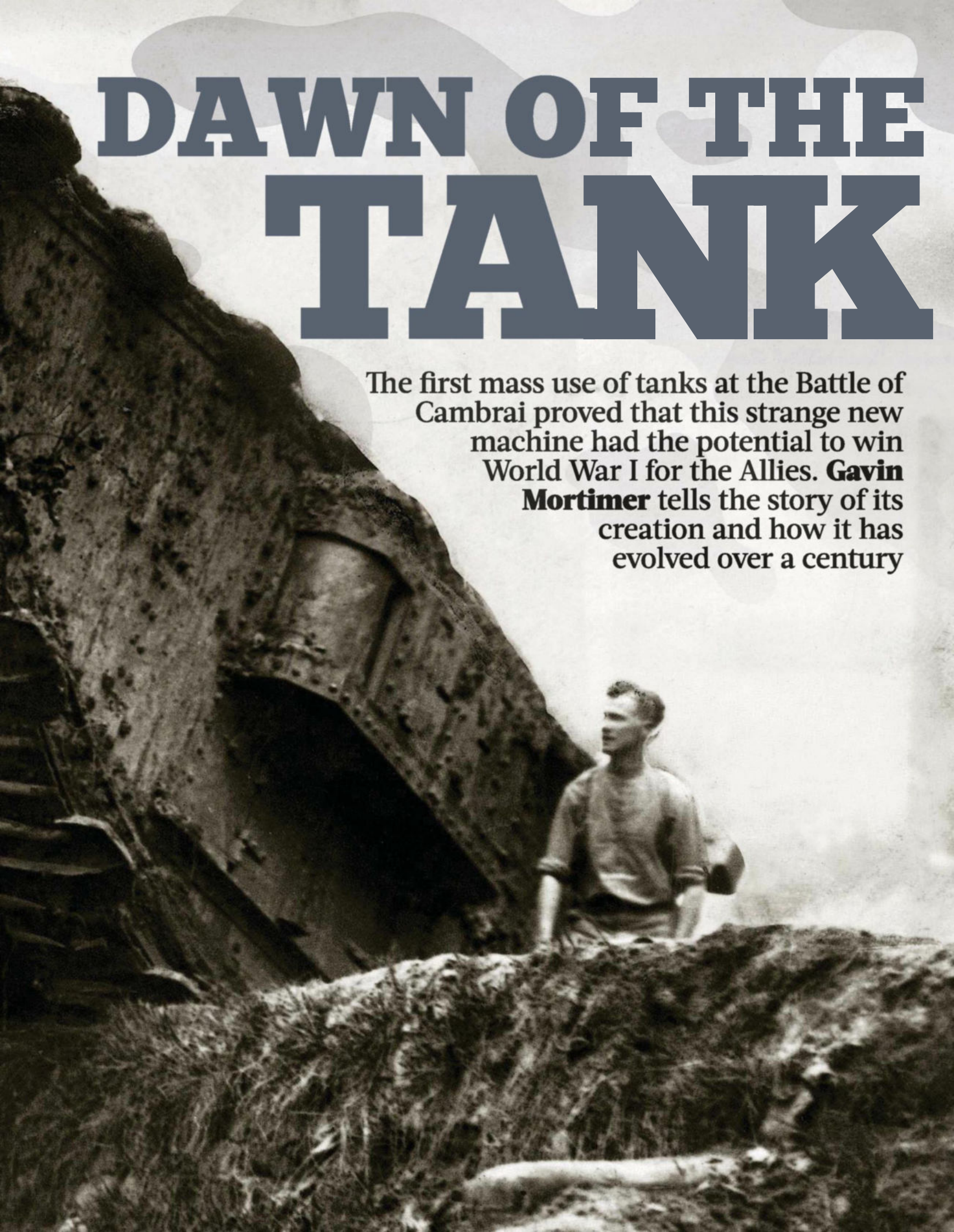
IRON WILL

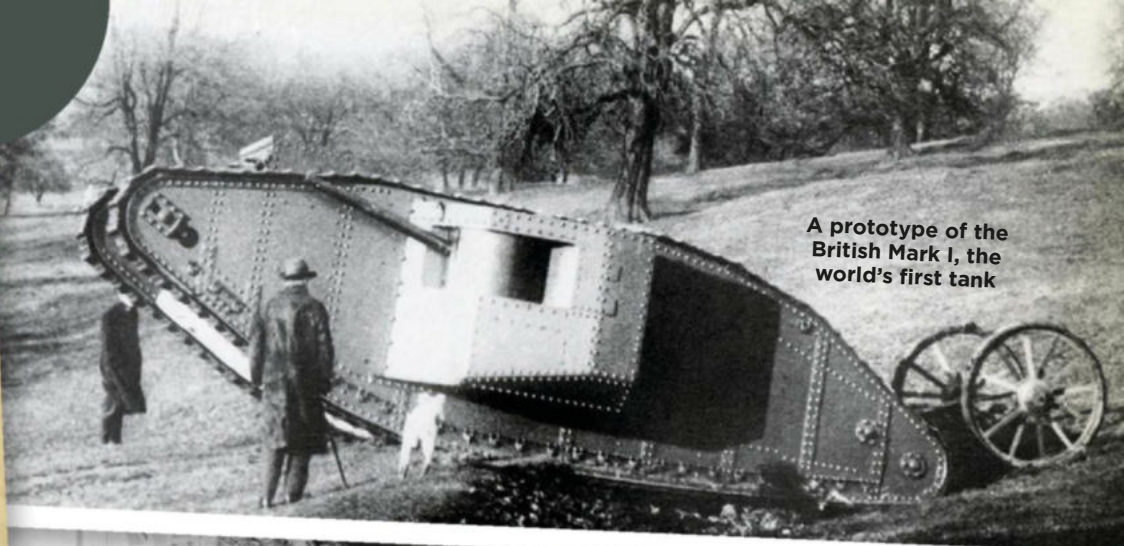
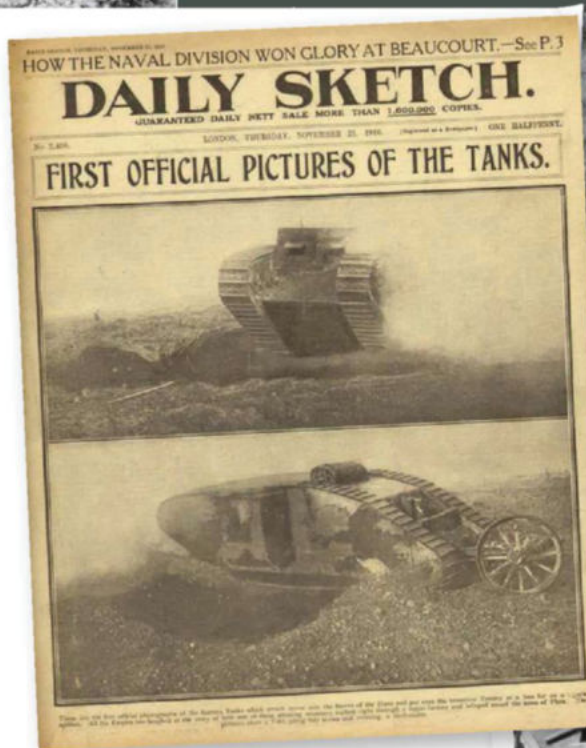
British soldiers manoeuvre a Mark IV tank over a trench at Cambrai. For the first time, they had a vehicle that could traverse the unforgiving terrain of No Man's Land

GETTY X3

DAWN OF THE TANK

The first mass use of tanks at the Battle of Cambrai proved that this strange new machine had the potential to win World War I for the Allies. **Gavin Mortimer** tells the story of its creation and how it has evolved over a century





A prototype of the British Mark I, the world's first tank



Benjamin Holt (left), inventor of 'caterpillar' tracks, meeting Lt-Colonel Ernest Swinton, mastermind of the tank

Dawn was breaking on 29 November 1917, and some of the British infantrymen – huddled cold and anxious in their trenches facing the French town of Cambrai – could hear partridges calling through the ground mist. Then, from their rear, they heard another sound – a slow, grinding clank – as more than 400 tanks began moving slowly towards the German positions a few hundred yards to the north. The infantrymen in reserve lay on the lip of their trenches watching the approach of these strange monsters, hoping they would make their job easier in the coming hours. Overhead, the shells from 1,000 artillery guns began screaming towards the enemy positions.

The tanks advanced over the frozen ground at 4mph. "The noise inside was absolutely deafening," remembered Lt Kenneth Wootton, commander of Tank A29, nicknamed 'Apollyon II' by its crew. "The eight-cylinder engine was going at full-speed, both six-pounder guns were firing as rapidly as possible, and I was emptying drum after drum from the machine-gun."

So great was the noise that Wootton was forced to cup his hand to the ear of his driver, Private George Fagg, to issue his instructions. "Now and again I lifted the flap on my side and very cautiously peered out to see if anything was in front of us," said Wootton. "So I crossed No Man's Land, dividing the time between firing off the Lewis gun, peering out the flap, and shouting to Fagg."

Wootton's tank was one of 18 attached to the 60th infantry brigade, their

orders to neutralise a strongpoint in the German frontline trench that guarded the path to Cambrai. On reaching the enemy position, Tank A29 drove parallel to the trench, raking the ground below with its machine guns. Satisfied that the Germans were either dead or in retreat, Wootton emerged from his tank, revolver in hand. "I jumped down from the doorway, ran round the back of the tank and leaped down into the trench," he said. Creeping along it, stepping over the bodies of the dead, Wootton turned a corner and found himself face to face with soldiers. British soldiers. "They were extremely cheerful and said they had got into the trenches very easily," he recalled. The soldiers had good reason for their humour; not only were they alive, but in their estimation, they'd taken trenches without suffering even one casualty.

Cambrai would soon be in British hands, and as the war correspondent for *The Times* told his readers in the despatch he wrote on this day: "The great feature of the operation was the overwhelming share played in the earlier stages of the advance by the Tanks... His Majesty's landships have at last had a real opportunity, and they seem to have made magnificent use of it."

'Landships', 'Ironclads', 'Land cruisers', 'Slugs', 'Juggernauts', 'Machine-gun destroyers' and 'Tanks';

the British press was still unable to agree on what to call the latest military innovation that had smashed through the German defences at Cambrai. Their lack of unanimity was surprising, given they'd had more than a year to settle on a name; the tank had made its first appearance on the battlefield during the Somme offensive of 1916, and here was a weapon of which the British could be proud. The dastardly Germans had pioneered poison gas, but

the British mind was far more ingenious and dashing than that.

CHURCHILL'S VISION

Since the early weeks of World War I, the British had wrestled with the problem of defeating an army deeply entrenched in a well-fortified line that ran for 475 miles from the North Sea to Switzerland. In early September 1914, a fleet of 60 'fighting cars', including some Rolls-Royces, were sent to France, but they were too fragile for the battlefield. At the end of the month, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, sent a memo to one of his staff calling on him to "investigate the practicality of a trench-spanning car". While the Royal Navy began experimenting with 'landships', the army was altogether more sceptical. Their engineer-in-chief, George Fowke advised the Navy to "descend from the realms of imagination", while Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, on seeing a prototype of a landship, dismissed it as a "pretty mechanical toy but without serious military value".

The key to developing the weapon Churchill envisaged was the 'caterpillar' tracks, patented by the Holt Manufacturing Company in California. At the turn of the century, the canny Benjamin Holt had designed a steam traction engine that crawled on linked tracks as opposed to wheels, so as to

Troops advance
behind a Mark IV.
Around 470 of these
tanks were deployed
at Cambrai



“The Germans had pioneered poison gas, but the British mind was far more ingenious and dashing than that”

better distribute the machine's weight and prevent it sinking into the ground. According to one account, it was the company's publicist who came up with the name 'caterpillar', a name that tickled Holt so much he trademarked it.

By June 1915, the army's scepticism was on the wane as the new weapon began to take shape. It had tracks, now it required armour and armament, and in September, after a series of consultations about the role the landship would play in a battle, it was agreed that a crew of eight would be needed to work each machine, which would travel at a top speed of 4mph behind armour that – at the front – was 10mm thick. As the “tactical object is to attack”, the landships would be equipped with two naval six-pounder cannon and a number of Lewis or Hotchkiss machine guns.

By now, one of the most influential figures in developing the new weapon

was Lt-Colonel Ernest Swinton, who had seen the potential for an armoured fighting vehicle in the autumn of 1914. In discussion with a colleague, Swinton suggested ‘tank’ as a nondescript title for what was a very secret project. It wasn't glamorous, but the priority was to keep the invention from the Germans until it was ready to be unleashed. In the meantime, Swinton was instructed to oversee training for the 750 men who would be recruited to the tank department of the Machine Gun Corps.

Discretion was paramount as Swinton recruited his crew. Notices were sent to infantry depots in Britain requesting volunteers for “an exceedingly dangerous and hazardous duty of a secret nature”, while classified ads were placed in *The Motor Cycle* magazine asking for men who knew how to drive automobiles.

Once selected, the volunteers were sent to a remote part of Suffolk for their

training in a heavily guarded camp. The first tanks soon arrived, as did King George V. who visited on 26 July 1915 and was taken for a spin over a patch of ground that had been transformed into a replica of the Western Front. Describing the tanks to his diary as “caterpillars”, His Majesty wrote that they “went over trenches, craters, etc, and through woods knocking down trees. There are 150 ordered besides 50 more to carry larger guns. I think they will be a great success, they really are moving forts.”

Not that it was much fun to be inside one. The King lasted only a few minutes before he asked to get out, and even for seasoned crew it was a torturous experience. First, there was the heat from the petrol engine, which was situated in the centre of the hull, and around which the crew was positioned, their noses and throats burning from the engine fumes. There was little ventilation and no cushioning from the violent motion of the tank. Courage and stamina were pre-requisites, therefore, but even the toughest men couldn't long withstand the slow seep of carbon monoxide fumes that made some vomit and others unconscious.

TO THE FRONTLINE

As the training progressed, the army began to address the question of how and when to best deploy the tanks. The

100
YEARS OF THE
TANK

DID YOU KNOW?

30
TONNES

The first British tanks weighed almost 30 tonnes and the newest, the Challenger 2, comes in at 62.5 tonnes

62.5
TONNES

Britain is in the process of reducing its number of frontline tanks from 227 to 170, a tiny figure compared to Russia's 2,700

\$12.6
MILLION

The most expensive tank in the world is the French AMX-56 Leclerc, which costs an estimated \$12.6 million per machine

Driving an early tank involved hand gestures, with the officer signalling to his driver what gear was required and which direction to take

300
GALLONS

A modern tank requires approximately 300 gallons every eight hours, depending on its mission and terrain, and refuelling usually takes ten minutes

Communication from tank to HQ during the world wars was by carrier pigeon. Messages were attached to their legs and they were then released through a hatch to fly back to base

Tanks first saw action at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, but many, like this one, broke down



Tanks were also useful for transporting heavy supplies. Here, they carry *fascines* – bundles of wood used for trench-filling



“Men and machines were woefully undertrained for the initiation”

◀ Battle of the Somme had been launched on 1 July 1916, and hopes of a ‘Big Push’ had died on the barbed wire of the rolling French countryside as German machine guns mowed down tens of thousands of British infantrymen. Morale was at rock bottom and, against the wishes of Swinton, it was decided to rush 150 tanks to the front for a fresh offensive in September, rather than wait for 1917 when a further 350 would have trundled off the production line.

The outcome was inevitable. When the tanks went into action on 15 September

– a first in the history of warfare – they were used in what Swinton derisively called ‘dribbles’, as opposed to a mass attack. Men and machines were woefully undertrained for the initiation, and incompetence and engine failure meant that only 32 actually engaged the enemy.

But the tanks did fulfil one purpose – they lifted spirits on the Home Front, with newspapers competing with one another for the most lurid headline in praise of the new-fangled machine. “New Forts on Wheels Made Huns Run Like Rabbits” was one of the more far-



THE BIGGEST TANK BATTLE EVER

The Battle of Kursk



On 24 April 1918, a German A7V tank exchanged fire with three British Mark IVs close to the French village of Villers-Bretonneux. In the first head-to-head tank battle in history, the A7V damaged two of the British machines before it was destroyed with a direct hit. A little over 25 years later, on 12 July 1943, the world witnessed what arguably remains the biggest-ever tank battle, involving an estimated 700 German tanks and 850 Soviet tanks during the Battle of Kursk.

The setting was the flat terrain of Prokhorovka in south-western Russia, as the 2nd SS Panzer Division tried to smash through the Soviet 5th Guards Tank Army on a front just 12 miles long. The fighting was ferocious and unprecedented in warfare, as the two mechanised armies clashed. "Tanks that sustained direct hits exploded while driving at full speed," recalled Russian veteran Evgeny Shkurdalov. "Single shots were inaudible as the cannonade fused into a deafening roar. There were moments when due to dense powder fumes, we could distinguish our tanks from German only by silhouettes in the smoke."

One SS tank officer, 1st Lt Rudolf von Ribbentrop, said of the battle: "The avalanche of tanks rolled straight towards us... from this range every round was a hit." One of Ribbentrop's shells hit a Soviet tank that was so

close when it exploded, "its turret flew about three metres through the air, almost striking my tank's gun."

By the end of the day, the Soviets had 650 tanks out of action, and the Germans believed victory was theirs. But their enemy brought up reinforcements, and poor weather hampered resupply efforts. Hitler soon called off the offensive, handing the strategic initiative to the Soviets in the war on the Eastern front.

LEFT: French officers inspect a German A7V captured at Villers-Bretonneux, the site of the first head-to-head tank battle **BELOW: Soviet troops run alongside their T-34s during a counter-attack at the Battle of Kursk in 1943**



fetches, while tanks soon began to appear as children's toys, teapots and piggy banks.

Yet despite the disappointing results of the tanks' debut, Field-Marshal Haig, commander-in-chief of British forces in France, glimpsed their potential if used in significant numbers with properly trained crews. Soon, the order was issued to build 1,000 more tanks and recruit drivers, electricians and mechanics to serve (with better rates of pay) in eight battalions of the Tank Corps, whose colonel-in-chief was the King himself.

Meanwhile, a new, lighter tank – the Mark IV – was in production, and a Tank Committee was formed to decide how to deploy them. One problem they faced, after tanks had again been used piecemeal and without success at the Battle of Arras in April 1917, was that the element of surprise had gone. The Germans had increased their supply of armour-piercing ammunition, they had created tank traps (such as flooded ditches), and they had formed anti-tank batteries of specially trained artillerymen.

Germany had also gleaned information on the tanks from one of their spies, but not, as the British press claimed during her trial for espionage in the summer of 1917, from the Dutch dancer known as Mata Hari. Far from being an exotic belly-dancer, the informant was a post-office censor in Liverpool called Julius Silber, who tipped off the Germans throughout 1916 about "some sort of armoured car mounted on caterpillar wheels".

A SHADOW OF A DOUBT

A year after its introduction, the tank had still not proved itself on the battlefield. An attempt to deploy them in the mud of the Third Battle of Ypres



A British Mark IV tank stuck in the mud at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917



“When Wootton regained consciousness, he was being dragged from the burning tank”

in August 1917 had ended in disaster, and many were openly questioning the tank's future, as they were the British war effort as a whole after the unmitigated slaughter at Ypres (better known as the Battle of Passchendaele). What was required was an offensive that, in the words of one senior staff officer, would “restore British prestige and strike a theatrical blow against Germany before the winter”.

The place chosen was Cambrai, a town 25 miles north-east of where the tanks had first gone into action, and the objective was to smash through the five-mile-deep German line. With that done, and with Cambrai in British hands, the advance would continue as far north as possible. Tanks and infantry, assisted by a new artillery tactic of predicted fire, would make the initial thrust, and then the cavalry would surge through the holes to capture Cambrai and crossings over the river Sensée. For the first time, the Tank Corps in its entirety would be deployed, ten times the number used on the Somme, and over a front of just six miles in what was called a ‘unicorn formation’ – one leading and two slightly behind on either flank. Thirty-two tanks were fitted with grapnels designed to rip up the barbed wire and leave paths for the cavalry and infantry.

The tank of Kenneth Wootton, commander of ‘Apollyon II’, was a fighting one, instructed

to engage the German soldiers unscathed by the artillery bombardment. Having jumped into an enemy trench to survey its handiwork, Wootton got back inside the tank and ordered Fagg to press on, while he opened fire with the machine gun.

“By now the inside of the tank was terribly hot, caused by the engine chiefly, and the air was heavy and close and caught the back of your throat when you breathed,” he recalled.

Up ahead, Wootton spotted a Germany battery, and ordered the gunner manning the six-pounder to open fire. His shell sent the German crew scurrying for cover, but that gun was just one of several. “Soon after, we came almost face to face with at least four more guns,” said Wootton. It was the Germans who fired first. “The shell struck us in front just where I was sitting and, bursting as it hit, blew a hole in the armour-plating by my left knee.”

When Wootton regained consciousness, he was being dragged from the burning tank by Fagg, and by an extraordinary stroke of good fortune, only he had been wounded. One of the crew flagged down a tank on its way back to British lines, and Wootton was tenderly carried inside. >



THE SMALLEST

The US ‘Badger’ (2009)

▲ Measuring a very modest 81cm width, and with a crew of one, the unarmed Badger is designed for use by American SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) teams. Compact enough to fit through doors, the Badger is also robust enough to crash through walls, and its armour plating protects it from small-arms fire and small landmines.



TANK TOP TRUMPS

Since the Mark I rumbled off the production line more than a century ago, tanks have changed in almost every aspect bar one – their caterpillar tracks. Here is the lowdown on the biggest, fastest and most frightening tanks in 100 years of armoured warfare:



THE BIGGEST

The Nazi Panzerkampfwagen VIII Maus (1944)

▲ Ironically nicknamed 'The Mouse' ('Maus') on account of its size, this Nazi monster weighed in at nearly 190 tonnes and was over ten metres in length. Fitted with a 128mm gun, it would have been able to destroy all rivals at a range of over two miles. Unfortunately for the Germans, Soviet forces overran the production plant in late 1944 before the Mouse had time to emerge from its hole onto the battlefield.

THE MOST HEAVILY ARMED

The Russian T-90 (1993)

▼ Nicknamed 'Vladimir', the T-90 is a surprisingly light 48 tonnes, but it's the firepower that marks it out. Possessing a 125mm smoothbore cannon, the tank can also fire laser-guided missiles, meaning it can shoot down helicopters. In addition, the T-90 comes with externally mounted .50-cal and 7.62-cal machine guns, the former being remotely operated from within the tank. Then there's its magnetic mine detection system, able to disable mines with an electromagnetic pulse.



The Russian T-14 Armata (2015)

▼ Described as the first of Russia's 'Next Generation' tanks, the T-14's outstanding innovation is its unmanned turret, with the three-man crew seated in an armoured capsule in the front of the hull. Armed with a 125mm smoothbore cannon, it boasts a maximum effective-penetration range of five miles. With a top speed of 55mph and a range of 300 miles, the T-14 is a formidable fighting machine.



THE MOST SOPHISTICATED

The Swedish CV90 Armadillo (1993)

▼ Billed as the world's fastest tank, the CV90 Armadillo is fitted with an Active Suspension System similar to that used on Formula 1 racing cars. With this technology, the CV90 has clocked 60mph on battlefield terrain and also packs a considerable punch with its 30mm Bushmaster II gun. Used by the Norwegian army in Afghanistan in 2007, the CV90 wreaked havoc among the Taliban.

THE FASTEST






BATTLE OF CAMBRAI DAWN OF THE TANK

The British took 4,200 prisoners at Cambrai, and advanced further in six hours than in three months at Flanders



Cambrai petered out into another bloody and inconclusive battle.

Nevertheless, they had proved their worth in being deployed en masse, and new lessons were drawn from Cambrai that would facilitate the rapid expansion of the tank as a military weapon in the 20th century. Tanks needed to be lighter and more mobile, capable of fulfilling the role once expected of the cavalry, whose obsolescence was almost complete by 1918 thanks to advances in military technology. In 1923, the Tank Corps became the Royal Tank Corps, complete with a new unit badge and its own motto, which, considering the courage of the early crews, was apposite: 'Fear Naught'. 

◀ "It was about full up," he remembered. "This tank was returning from the attack... and was picking up any other wounded tank people it could find."

LESSONS LEARNED

Wootton's tank was one of 39 from the 1st Tank Brigade destroyed on the first day of the Battle of Cambrai, but their sacrifice – and that of their crews – had not been in vain. The infantry had

advanced nearly four miles, seizing two fortified German trench systems and capturing over 4,000 prisoners in a matter of hours. But the success was short-lived; the cavalry failed to exploit the advances, the reserves were insufficient, and the Germans rushed reinforcements to the battlefield and counter-attacked. The tanks had done their bit, but over the coming days,

GET HOOKED



READ

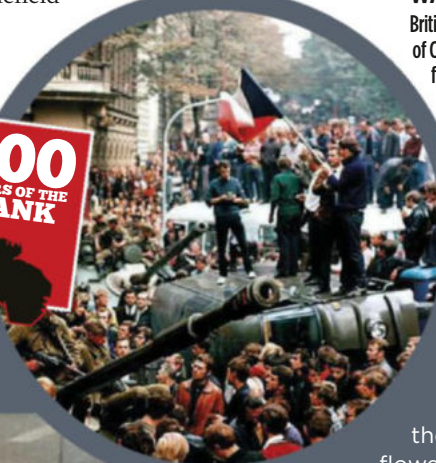
Cambrai 1917: The Myth of the First Great Tank Battle by Bryn Hammond (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2008).

WATCH

British gunner Eric Potton recalls his experiences at the Battle of Cambrai in this eye-witness interview, available to watch for free on YouTube: www.bit.ly/2x5JTMf

Tanks of tyranny

In the decades since its invention, the tank has become not only a crucial weapon on the battlefield, but also a brutal means of suppressing democracy by ruthless regimes



Prague Spring, 1968

◀ This reform movement led by Czech communist leader Alexander Dubček lasted until half a million Soviet-led troops invaded in August. Unlike the Hungarian uprising, the Czechs tried to stop the tanks peacefully and offered flowers to the invading soldiers.

Hungary invasion, 1956

▼ Thousands of Hungarians rose up against Soviet rule and their own brutal secret police in autumn 1956, with freedom fighters forcing their oppressor's tanks to withdraw. But at dawn on 4 November, Soviet forces launched an all-out assault on Budapest, crushing the uprising with the loss of 3,000 lives.



Tiananmen Square, 1989

▲ Student-led protests in Beijing in the spring of 1989 culminated in the Tiananmen Square massacre on 4 June, when tanks moved in, killing hundreds of protestors. The following day, a photographer captured this iconic image of a man blocking their path.



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Mass Hysteria

There is no knowing what can set people off – even laughing, dancing and kissing are a risk...



The 'victims' turned the trials into farcical spectacles by acting as if demons were present



MARS ATTACKS

WAR OF THE WORLDS

Who could possibly believe a radio adaptation of HG Wells' alien invasion novel, *War of the Worlds*, was real? Orson Welles' broadcast in 1938 used news-style bulletins to great effect, persuading listeners that Martians had landed on the US east coast. Although the panic was not as widespread as newspapers suggested, locals of Grovers Mill, NJ (which had been 'attacked'), fired at the water tower, believing it to be an alien war machine.

Listeners also claimed to smell the aliens' poisonous gas and see strange flashes of light

JITTER BUG

DANCING PLAGUE

In 1518, men, women and children took to the streets of Strasbourg filled by an overpowering desire to dance. That, however, is where any similarity to an uplifting musical number ends. Unable to stop, they twisted and twirled until, their feet bloody, they collapsed from exhaustion or literally danced themselves to death. The cure: more dancing, doctors claimed, would burn off the fever – leading the authorities to build a stage and hire musicians to keep the deadly party going. Two months later, the dancing stopped as suddenly and mysteriously as it began.



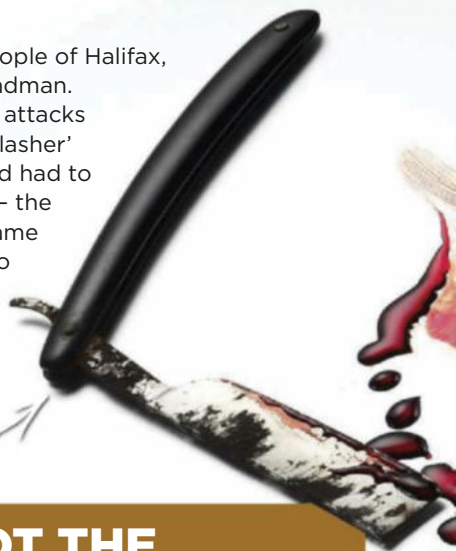
Dance fever broke out many times across Europe

JACK THE RIP-OFF

THE HALIFAX SLASHER

For most of November 1938, the people of Halifax, West Yorkshire, lived in fear of a madman. Despite over half-a-dozen reported attacks with a mallet or razor, the 'Halifax Slasher' proved so elusive that Scotland Yard had to be called. Then the truth came out – the Slasher did not exist. The victims came forward one by one and admitted to inflicting their wounds themselves, leading to four being imprisoned for public mischief.

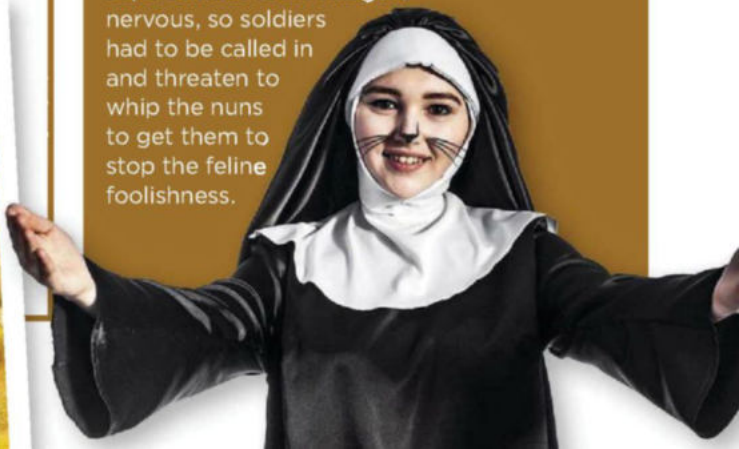
The Slasher caused such fear that roaming vigilante groups formed and intimidated anyone deemed to be suspicious



CAT GOT THE NUN'S TONGUE

FRENCH NUNS START MEOWING

Everyday life for a medieval nun was all about routine and ritual, with little opportunity for excitement. But not in one French convent. It began when a nun suddenly started meowing like a cat. Soon, the moggy madness had spread until everyone would meet for regular sessions of caterwauling. The noise made superstitious local villagers nervous, so soldiers had to be called in and threaten to whip the nuns to get them to stop the feline foolishness.





DOOM AND BROOM

SALEM WITCH TRIALS

While hysteria undoubtedly lay at the heart of all of history's witch hunts, the most notorious display of leaving common sense at the door has to be Salem. When witchcraft was blamed for causing the fits and screaming outbursts of two young girls in early 1692, a deadly cycle of accusations and trials commenced. Those who would not confess to consorting with demons were sentenced to death – 25 residents of the small Massachusetts town died.

INFECTIOUS LAUGH

TANGANYIKA LAUGHTER EPIDEMIC

If laughter is the best medicine, this proves it can also be the illness. On 30 January 1962, three girls at a boarding school in Kashasha, Tanganyika (now Tanzania), got the giggles during class. The teacher may have initially scolded them as troublemakers, but the laughter spread. Hysterical fits lasted between a few minutes and 16 days. The school eventually sent the girls home, taking the infection with them. In all, 14 schools had to close.

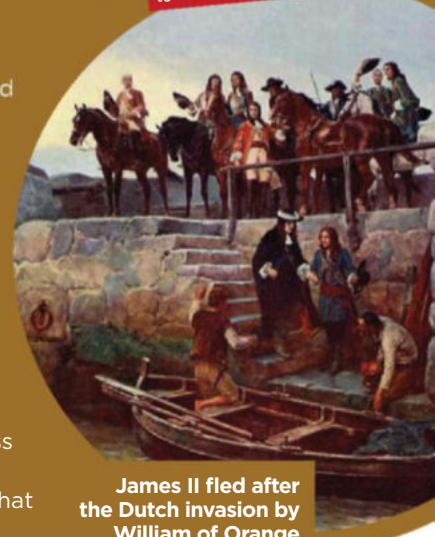


IT'LL BE ALRIGHT ON THE FRIGHT

THE IRISH FRIGHT

With tensions between Catholics and Protestants at breaking point in 1688, an incident such as the Irish Fright was perhaps inevitable. Rumours circulated that Irish soldiers – supporters of the deposed (and Catholic) James II – planned to pillage their way through England, “putting all before them to fire and sword,” as one bishop put it. Fear of the Irish had become so deeply established that tens of thousands of men across London and at least 19 counties mobilised and prepared for a fight that was never coming.

A similar panic took place at the start of the French Revolution in 1789, with armed peasants paranoid of an aristocratic plot to starve them off



James II fled after the Dutch invasion by William of Orange

NOT WELL IN HOLLINWELL

THE ‘HOLLINWELL INCIDENT’

Children came from all over the East Midlands to take part in the annual Hollinwell Show in July 1980, hoping to win the brass and marching-band competition. Before they could perform, though, hundreds were struck down by a seemingly contagious bout of fainting spells.

“My legs and arms felt as if they had no bones in them,” said one girl. Could pesticides be to blame, or a mass attack of nerves?



KISS OF DEATH?

KISSING BUGS HYSTERIA

A “newspaper epidemic” was the best description of the wave of panic across the northeast United States in 1899. On 20 June, James McElhorne of *The Washington Post* claimed ‘kissing bugs’ – so-called for biting people on the lips – posed a plague-like danger. Suddenly, every mark and blemish on the skin looked like a life-threatening bite and, with no credible signs of any bugs, the tales grew increasingly wild. An alleged sufferer claimed to have seen a kissing bug with a head like a rat and two fangs.



The kissing bug sucks blood, hence its other nickname: vampire



LOOK OUT BELOW

KORO PANIC

Over a couple of months in 1967, nearly 500 Singaporean men – most under the age of 20 – rushed to hospital with the same, unusual concern. They were all found to be suffering from ‘koro’ syndrome, the belief that their genitals were shrinking. These fears, brought about by reports linking koro to eating tainted pork, could only be assuaged by an emergency television conference by the Singapore Medical Association.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Don't panic! No need for hysteria! If we've missed something, let us know...

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MAKING A
MONSTER

Eighteen-year-old Shelley was determined to prove to polite society that refined young ladies could also conjure twisted tales

A large, detailed portrait of Mary Shelley, showing her from the chest up. She has dark, curly hair and is wearing a dark dress with a white lace collar. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera. Her hands are visible, resting on a desk with an open book and a quill pen.

Mary Shelley
**FRANKENSTEIN'S
MOTHER**

Two hundred years ago, a young woman completed one of the most terrifying novels of all time. **Mel Sherwood** discovers the scandalous and tumultuous tale of Mary Shelley...



MARY SHELLEY FRANKENSTEIN'S MOTHER

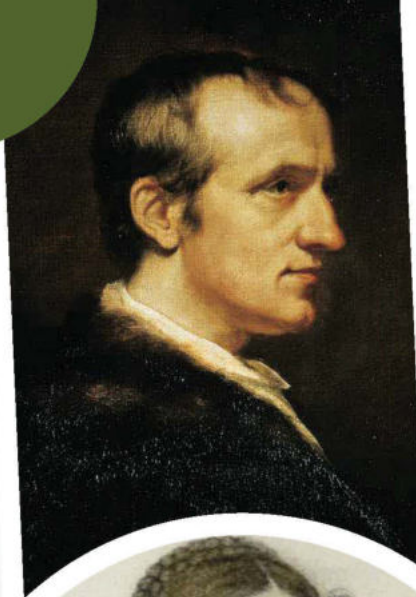
I saw – with shut eyes, but acute mental vision – I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life, and stir with an uneasy, half-vital motion.”

This, in Mary Shelley’s own words, is how the idea of *Frankenstein; or The Modern Prometheus* first came to her, her imagination “possessed” by the phantasm. Though historians question whether or not she really was struck, as if by lightning, with this vision, it certainly would be apt if she had been. In the summer of 1816, 18-year-old Mary penned her magnum opus while trapped in a storm-ravaged pocket of the Swiss Alps. As thunder crackled around her, she created one of the most original and enduring horror stories of all time. A genius piece of writing, *Frankenstein* pulled together all the most prominent scientific questions of Mary’s time, as well as overarching philosophical themes that endure today. But more than that, she also wove in personal woes that had haunted her – and would continue to haunt her – her whole life long.

It was when Mary was just ten days old that she suffered her first, haunting, tragedy; on 10 September 1797, her mother died of childbed, or puerperal, fever. With her mother gone, Mary was left with her father and her half-sister Fanny. Though born small and weak, the infant Mary soon developed lungs that cried out especially loud and strong. Even as a baby, Mary had a voice to be heard.

Theirs was an unconventional family, which is entirely because of Mary’s unconventional, but undeniably brilliant, parents. Her mother was the pioneering feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft, while her father was the radical writer and philosopher William Godwin. They were atheists, anarchists and vocal advocates for widespread social change. Their love affair had been suitably passionate for such radicals. Though William sought to bring down the institution of marriage, the pair were married within a year, by which time Mary was with child. A few short months later she bore Mary junior into this world and in doing so, lost her life. William mourned the loss for many years but, eventually, he felt his daughters needed a mother figure and, in 1801, he remarried.

Mary-Jane Clairmont, who had two young children, would tick many of the boxes on the list of required qualities for the archetypal role of the wicked stepmother. She had an ugly temper, was quick to raise her hand, seemingly cared little for her stepchildren, and banned any talk of the first Mrs Godwin. Young Mary had always blamed herself for her mother’s death, feeling deeply that she had taken her maker’s life, but under her stepmother’s regime, her anguish deepened. The child pored over her mother’s books, as well as her mother’s



A FAMILY OF INNOVATORS
While Mary Shelley (above) is credited with writing the first science-fiction novel, her father, William Godwin (top), wrote the first mystery



“There is something at work in my soul, which I do not understand”

An extract from Frankenstein

portrait, desperate to see herself in the face looking out at her. She was dedicated to her education, which no doubt benefitted from the fact that she lived with her father. Though he had fallen from favour, William still attracted great thinkers to the house. Philosophers, poets, critics and scientists all came to visit William, and Mary absorbed every word of their debates that she could.

After an illness in around 1812, Mary went to stay with the Baxter family in Dundee – an environment that her family thought would be better for her recovery than London. In November, Mary returned home for a short spell, and she would not have been surprised

to learn that one of her father’s many fanatics was visiting. But she would never have imagined how this visitor would change her life...

THE NEW ROMANTIC

The guest was Percy Bysshe Shelley, a fiery young Romantic poet of 19, who saw himself as a disciple of William Godwin. He and his new wife, Harriet, had become regular visitors to the house, and Percy, who was heir to a great fortune, had offered to pay William to write new political works. While this first meeting was fleeting, as the 14-year-old Mary soon returned to Dundee, their second, in May 1814, was anything but. Now 16 years old, intellectual

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS

Before Mary and Percy ran away together, they attempted joint suicide, but were rumoured. They were caught. Mary with a bottle of laudanum in her hand, Percy, with a gun in his.

UNITED IN GRIEF

Poet Percy Shelley comforts a young Mary in Saint Pancras Graveyard, London, where her mother is buried. Later, Mary would claim that they embraced with the "full ardour of love" beside the grave (bottom right)

and bright, Mary instantly captivated Percy. She discussed all manner of subjects with confidence and passion, in particular matters of science and revolution. He would later say that he did not fall in love with her for her beauty, but for her originality. By June, the pair were seeing each other every day and, though they had not yet made any mention of love, Percy had all but abandoned Harriet. One day, while on a secret walk together to her mother's grave, Mary boldly declared that she loved him. They took to each other's arms and, in Mary's own words, indulged in the "full ardour of love" beside the grave.

Divorce was exceptionally difficult at this time, so Mary and Percy concerned themselves with how to be together. Eventually, the lovers settled on running away to the Continent – Mary did not believe her marriage-hating father would be too concerned. On 28 July, Mary and her stepsister Claire snuck out and met Percy, before sailing the Channel. It was a stormy night and, terrified and seasick, Mary cowered in her lover's arms. But Percy was thrilled. Like most

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT A MOTHER'S LOVE

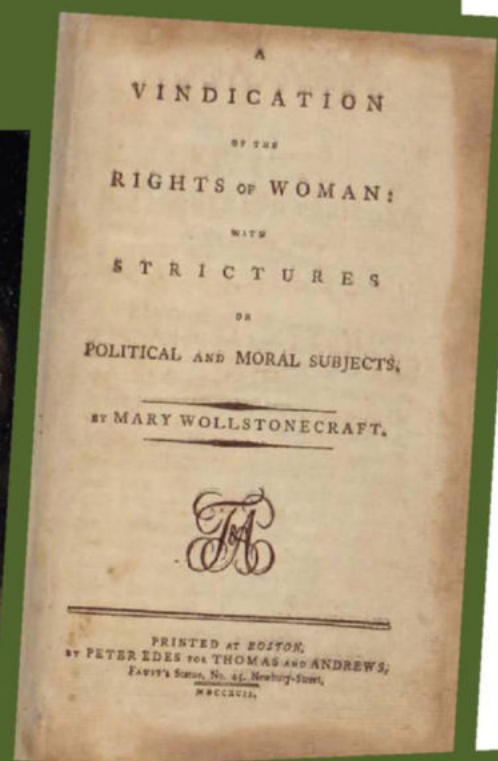
Mary Wollstonecraft was a writer and passionate advocate of equality for women. Her seminal work, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792), argued that the education system was at that time specifically designed to produce women who were petty, pretty and weak.

She spent time in Paris during the French Revolution, where she had an affair with an American captain, with whom she had a daughter (Mary Godwin's half-sister, Fanny), but, when that relationship fell apart, she attempted to commit suicide.

Recovered, she returned home and joined a group of radicals that included William Blake, Thomas Paine, William

Wordsworth and her future husband, William Godwin.

After her death – perhaps because of it – Wollstonecraft had a huge influence on her daughter's life. Mary even learned to read by touching the letters carved into her mother's gravestone at the age of three. She read and re-read her mother's works so many times that she could recite some of them, and their themes and arguments are integral to many of Mary's own works.



FOUNDING FEMINIST

Not only was Wollstonecraft (above) the mother of one of science fiction's greatest writers, she has also been named the 'mother of modern feminism' thanks to her arguments in *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (above right)





MARY SHELLEY FRANKENSTEIN'S MOTHER

◀ Romantics, he revelled in the savage dangers of nature. From France, they travelled to Switzerland, where they were expecting a wild and rugged landscape, but it was not at all as they had hoped it would be; it was orderly, and clean. Thoroughly disappointed, they decided to return to England. Their journey home took them through the Rhine, where they saw the ruins of a castle called 'Frankenstein'. The macabre tale that swirls around Frankenstein Castle clearly struck a chord with Mary: legend has it that a mad alchemist spent his days there conducting gruesome experiments to see if he could bring the dead back to life.

Upon their return in September, 17-year-old Mary was pregnant. They set up residence in London, but Mary was often alone, as Percy stayed away from the house to avoid the many creditors he was indebted to – he had not yet come into his inheritance, and their trip had not been cheap (nor had he stopped promising friends, like William, money). To make matters worse, they had been shunned by polite society for their flight to Europe, and Mary's father turned out to be more radical in thought than in deed – he disowned her.

Mary's spirits were low at this time, and they were about to take another hit. She gave birth to her baby prematurely in February 1815, and it lived only a few days. Later, she wrote in her



**"Solitude was my only
consolation – deep, dark,
deathlike solitude"**

An extract from Frankenstein

THE ROMANTICS A LITERARY REVOLUTION



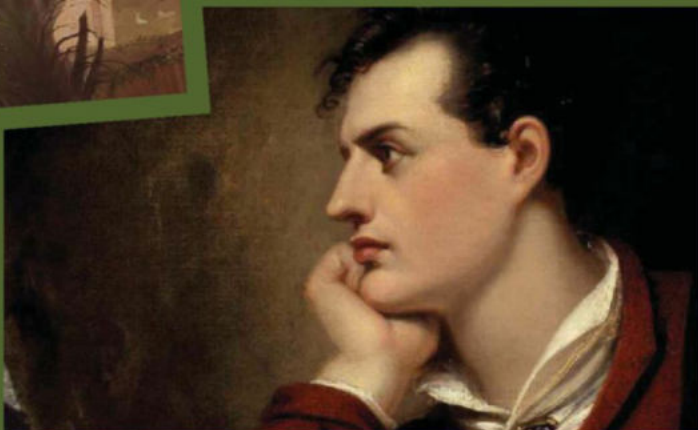
ON THE SAME PAGE

Percy Shelley (*above*) met Lord Byron (*right*) in Geneva, during a trip engineered by Mary's stepsister Claire, with whom Byron had had an affair. He lost interest in Claire, but found a friend in Percy

Britain's Romantic writers, of whom Mary Shelley was a key player, would not have referred to themselves as 'Romantic' – that name did not appear until the mid-1800s. However, it is a very apt description of what they did – they romanticised. Quite generally speaking, they looked back to days gone by – before the Industrial Revolution pulled the lower classes out of the countryside and into overcrowded cities – while marvelling at the mysteries

of nature. They also favoured the chaos of the medieval period over the order of the Classical ancient times, which had been inspiring the neoclassical artists of the mid-18th century.

While Mary's mother had kept company with the early Romantic poets – including *Songs of Innocence and Experience* writer William Blake – Mary herself fell in with the later crowd, of which Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley (along with John Keats) were the leaders of the pack. Her husband Shelley was an exciting poet, concerned with politics and revolution, and he conjured great images of fire and climactic events in epic poems such as *Queen Mab* and *Ode to the West Wind*. Byron, on the other hand, had a more witty, satiric style, and at the time was known as the 'gloomy egoist' who found almost instant fame with the autobiographical poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, part of which Mary actually transcribed for him. It is undeniable that Mary found herself influenced by these two powerful poets, and she influenced them in return.



HOUSE OF HORRORS
Frankenstein Castle in Germany – once home to a famed alchemist – likely served as inspiration for the novel

MYSTERY WRITER

When *Frankenstein* first came out, many assumed that Percy was its author. It had been released anonymously, and the only clue to its authorship was that it was dedicated to William Godwin – Mary's father. Mary's name was published with the second edition, in 1823.



A MONSTERPIECE

What began as a short story developed into one of the greatest horror novels of all time – *Frankenstein*. Right is a page from the original manuscript

journal: "Dream that my little baby came back to life again; that it had only been cold, and that we rubbed it before the fire, and it lived." That nightmare haunted her for the rest of her days.

Mary and Percy were soon expecting again and a boy, William, was born in January 1816. In May, the little family, accompanied by Claire, went to stay in Geneva, setting up home amid the Alps on the shore of Lake Geneva. One of their nearest neighbours was Lord Byron – a fellow Romantic poet with a revolutionary spirit and, for a short time, Claire's lover. At first, the group of radicals spent their days together sailing on the lake and enjoying the beauty of nature around them. That is, until the weather turned.

Day after dreary day, the group entertained themselves by reciting plays, poems and stories. On one particularly tempestuous night, Lord Byron found a volume of ghost tales to read. His audience was terrified, but for Byron, it was not enough. "We will each write a ghost story," he announced. He probably only expected the men to take up the challenge, but Mary had other ideas. She had long wanted to prove her creative abilities, and to live up to the expectations that

500

The number of first editions that were printed of *Frankenstein* in 1818

many people had of her as the progeny of two genius writers. According to her own account, days went by without a promising idea until, one night, she was struck with her vision of the "student of unhallowed arts". The next day, she put pen to paper, creating a short story. She showed Percy what she had written – he was one of the many to believe that his lover had literary genius in her veins – and he was thrilled. He encouraged Mary to develop it into a full-length novel. While she was writing, she was haunted by dreams of her dead child and of thoughts of her mother's death, none of which would have been helped by the news that her half-sister Fanny had committed suicide in October 1816 and, a few months later, that Percy's wife Harriet also took her own life. Under pressure

Chapter 1st
It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld my man completed, and with an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected my instruments of life around me, and ~~and~~ infused a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning, the rain pattered dimly against the window-pane, & my candle was nearly burnt out, when by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open. It breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

But how now can I describe my emotion at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form. His limbs were in proportion and I had selected his features & as handsome ~~and~~ ^{beautiful}. His hair was of a lustrous black, & his complexion ^{was} of a yellowish white. Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was flowing and his teeth of a pearly white. But there ~~was~~ ^{was} a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes that seemed almost of the same colour as the pure white sockets in which they were set,

from her father, Mary and Percy were married on 30 December 1816. Mary was pregnant again.

SPOILER ALERT

The family moved back to England and Mary finished *Frankenstein* in May 1817, before giving birth to a baby girl in September. Her debut novel was published the following January. While Mary wrote numerous other books – including a travel narrative entitled *History of a Six Weeks' Tour* based on her scandalous first adventure to Europe; a semi-autobiographical novel called *Mathilde*; and a historical novella called *Valperga* – *Frankenstein* was unarguably her most infamous work.

A seamless merging of the Gothic and the Romantic, and with enough groundbreaking material to be considered by many as the



SPARKS OF LIFE

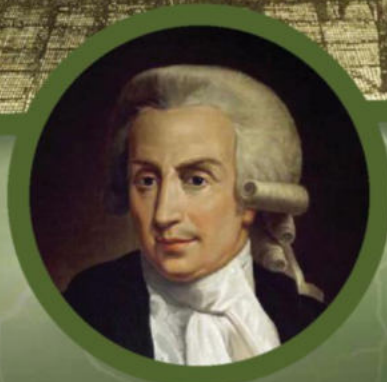
THE SCIENCE BEHIND FRANKENSTEIN

Victor Frankenstein's gruesome experiments may seem fantastical today, but Mary was inspired by some very real practices and theories of the time



GALVANI'S DANCING FROG

▲ In 1781, Italian surgeon Luigi Aloisio Galvani discovered what he called 'animal electricity', or bioelectricity, as it is known today. He observed that, when you touch a scalpel to a nerve in a dead frog's leg, it will make the limb jump. He later found out that a spark of electricity has the same effect. He published his findings a decade later, by which time he developed a reputation for being able to make his deceased frogs dance.

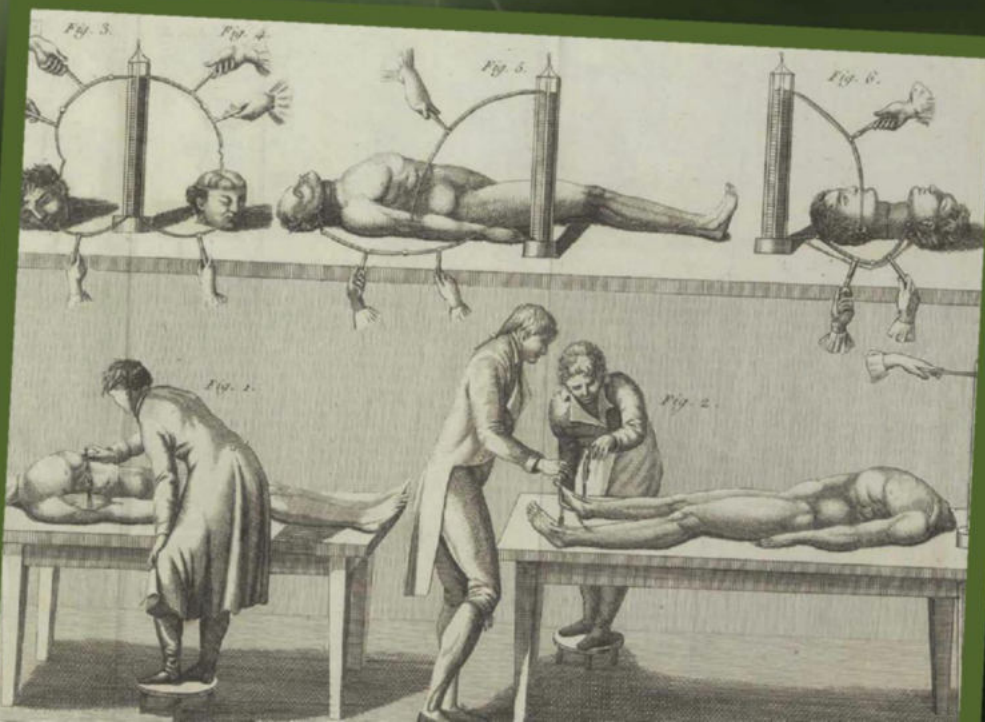


LAWRENCE'S LIFE THEORY

▲ William Lawrence, the Shelleys' doctor, engaged in a very public debate on the nature of life itself. While most doctors of the day (including John Abernethy, Lawrence's most vocal critic) believed that life – our thoughts and mental processes – was a kind of 'vital principle' that was somehow 'superadded' to the body, Lawrence argued that these were simply a function of the brain and body. His ideas were considered blasphemous, and Lawrence was forced to withdraw his writings and denounce his views in order to be allowed to work.

ELECTROCUTING CRIMINAL CADAVERS

► In 1803, Galvani's nephew, Giovanni Aldini, progressed his uncle's line of investigation. Before an audience of doctors and curious onlookers, Aldini applied conducting rods to the face of a recently executed criminal and a bolt of applied electricity. The result? The cadaver's jaw quivered and his left eye popped open. Onlookers feared the murderer might be brought back to life. Aldini then placed the probe into the body's rectum, which reportedly caused the dead man to clench his fist and raise his arm as if punching the air, to kick his legs and to arch his back.



TRAGIC HEROES

This marble memorial to the lovers depicts an imagined scene. Mary never held the drowned Percy in her arms – in fact, she refused to see his body



16

The length, in minutes, of the first film adaptation of Shelley's story. It was produced in 1910

“Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful”

Extract from Frankenstein



In later life, Mary was devoted to her only surviving son Percy Florence, who she sent to Harrow

first-ever work of science fiction, *Frankenstein* was a truly radical novel. Inspired by real scientific and philosophical thinking of the time, it tells the story of the ambitious science student, Victor Frankenstein (who bears a striking resemblance to Percy). Consumed by a desire to discover the source of life, he sets about building a creature from body parts in order to attempt to animate it. But when he succeeds, he is horrified by his creation and flees. Parentless, the creature is left to fend for itself, but after being deserted by his maker and repeatedly forced out of society, he turns to evil, wreaking murderous revenge on his maker and everyone he holds dear. A terrifying thriller, this fantastical tale asks challenging and real questions about humanity, and while polite society wasn't ready for it at first (one reviewer questioned “whether the head or the heart of the author be the most diseased”), it slowly became a cult hit.

However, neither reviews nor sales were likely to have been at the forefront of Mary's mind. In 1818, her baby girl died and, in June 1819, her young son William also passed away. Unsurprisingly, Mary sank into depression.

Though in November 1819 she gave birth to a healthy son, Mary's spirits remained low for years. As well as grieving for so many lost family members, her long-held beliefs in the ideologies of free love were being sorely tested; her husband had always had a wandering eye, but now he had fallen in love with Claire, her

own sister. To make matters worse, she had the unshakeable feeling that something terrible was going to happen. She was right.

The summer of 1822 brought two shattering tragedies. In June, while the Shelleys were living in Italy, Mary nearly died from a miscarriage. Then, in July, Percy drowned at sea. Mary would never recover from this loss, which came at the end of such a brutal string of tragedies.

With the death of her husband, so too do we see a shift in Mary's radical life. She lost her enthusiasm for revolution and social change – she even became an admirer of the comparatively mainstream politician Benjamin Disraeli. She did, however, continue to write, proving particularly adept at biographies and histories, and she also edited a collection of poetry that her late husband had left unfinished. But despite these quieter years, when she died in 1851, at the age of 54, she was best known as the scandalous author of *Frankenstein*, and today, her work is recognised as a masterpiece of Gothic and Romantic literature, and one of the original pieces of science fiction. ☉

GET HOOKED

BOOK

Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley by Charlotte Gordon (Random House, 2016) is a colourful dual biography of two women who should have shared a life.



FRANK AT THE MOVIES A MONSTER ON SCREEN

FRANKENSTEIN & THE BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN

► These classics from 1931 and 1935 star Boris Karloff as the monster and are directed by James Whale. Both hugely successful – the sequel is often considered better than the original – the plots play wild and free with the original story.



YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

This 1974 comedy by Mel Brooks stars Gene Wilder in the role of Dr Frederick Frankenstein, a descendant of Victor, who stumbles upon his ancestor's laboratory notes.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Inspired by Shelley's novel and its subsequent adaptations, the lead character in this outrageous 1974 musical, Dr Frank N Furter (Tim Curry), reveals his artificially made monster, which is complete with “blonde hair and a tan”.

MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN

► Often considered one of the most faithful adaptations, this 1994 Kenneth Branagh film still strays from the novel, and some find it sadly unscary.



FRANKENWEENIE

It is a little boy's pet dog that is reanimated in this 2012 children's movie from Tim Burton, when young Victor brings 'Sparky' back to life.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

► We see the story unfold from the sidekick's perspective in this 2015 adaptation, which stars James McAvoy as Victor and Daniel Radcliffe as Igor.



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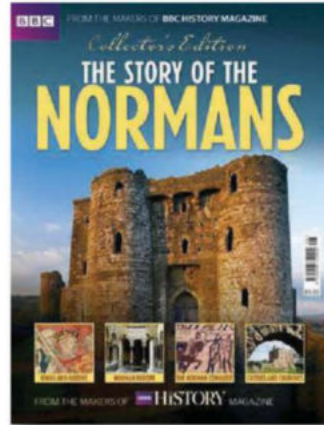
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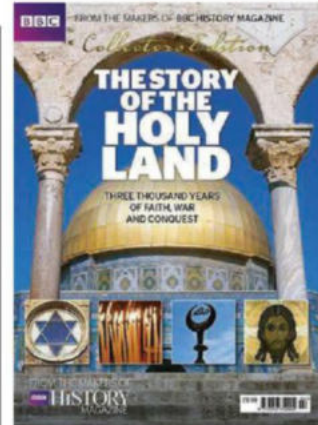
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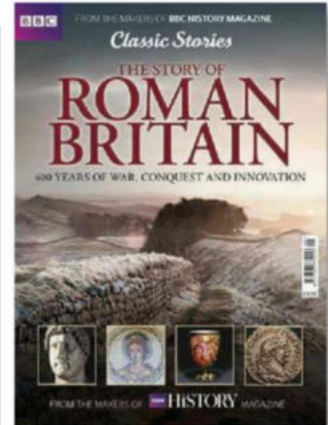
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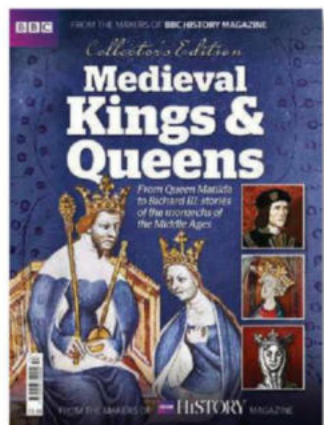
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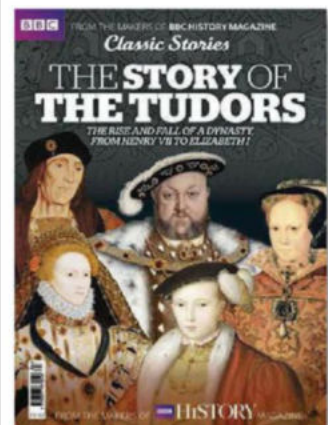
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OLD FOOL?

Although best remembered for ordering the sea to be whipped, there was more to this Persian king than his enemies would have us believe

XERXES

The doomed prince of Persia

The son of Darius I had big boots to fill upon his father's death – ones that, according to the Greeks at least, slipped from Xerxes' feet for the duration of his reign. **Alice Barnes-Brown** tells his story

The Persian 'King of Kings', Xerxes I, looked out across the Saronic Gulf. Seated on his throne atop the imposing Mount Aigaleo, a wonderful vantage point just outside Athens, he watched his mighty naval fleet do battle with the Greeks at the Battle of Salamis. What he saw, however, would disappoint him and send him (and many of his men) packing for good. His arrogance would prove to be his downfall, not only in Greece, but within the whole Persian Empire.

A BORN KING

Xerxes, perhaps, had reason to be arrogant. He was born circa 519 BC to King Darius I of the powerful Achaemenid dynasty, who had ruled the Persian Empire at its greatest extent – stretching from Pakistan to northern Greece. Furthermore, his mother was Atossa, the daughter of Cyrus the Great – the empire's founder. Xerxes' early life was, therefore, one of luxury and vanity, having been worshipped by his staff and accustomed to getting his own way.

Darius died in 486 BC, just before his second invasion of Greece. Over a decade earlier, the Persian-occupied areas of this neighbouring civilisation had grown tired of their tyrannical puppet government, and instigated what became known as the Ionian Revolt. A first attempt to quash the Greeks had failed, but Darius was willing to try again. Persian tradition dictated that, in case anything happened to him on campaign, he would have to choose a successor first. Darius chose Xerxes, in spite of the fact he was not the eldest son. Naturally, this enraged Xerxes' older half-brother, Artobazanes, marking the start of a tricky power struggle.

Prior to Xerxes' crowning, Artobazanes contested the decision and argued that only a king's eldest son could be the legitimate successor. In retaliation, Xerxes enlisted the help of an exiled Spartan king named Demaratus, who argued that Spartan tradition did not follow this apparently universally accepted rule. But Xerxes' trump card was his ancestry – as a direct descendant of Cyrus the Great, the man who had founded the Persian Empire in the first place, he possessed an illustrious family tree. His embittered sibling did not.

He also had his mother on hand to help. Atossa, the most respected and beloved of all Darius's wives, held a massive degree of influence. She ensured that her son's accession went smoothly, and that Artobazanes faded into obscurity. After all, who would dare question the daughter of the great Cyrus?

As king, one of the first things Xerxes did was crush large revolts in Persian-occupied Babylon. He angered its inhabitants further when he crassly destroyed a golden statue of the god Marduk, even though Babylonian custom stated that the legitimate ruler of the land had to honour it each New Year. Such disrespect for these traditions clearly demonstrated that Xerxes was not a ruler to be trifled with, and



Zack Snyder's epic war film *300* tells the story of Xerxes' Persian army at Thermopylae – with a dash of creative license

**“I am Xerxes, great King,
King of Kings, the King
of all countries... the King
on this great Earth
far and wide”**

*Xerxes, in an inscription on a foundation
tablet at Persepolis*

made him extremely unpopular. As the Pharaoh of Egypt, he destroyed yet another insurrection there. Of course, the Egyptians received the same harsh treatment as the Babylonians. These swift defeats gave the fragile King a much-needed confidence boost. Wishing to complete his father's unfinished business, Xerxes set his sights on rebellious Greece.

BATTLE IN VAIN

With approximately 300,000 soldiers, it was the largest and most well-equipped invasion force the world had ever seen. It was supported by a number of Greek volunteers, who had decided that resistance was futile and that their best bet was to side with the inevitable winner – or so they thought.

Paving his way through what's now Turkey, Xerxes and his men hit an obstacle when they arrived at the Hellespont, the narrow strait beyond which lay Europe and a sure victory. Here, Ancient Greek historian Herodotus tells a curious tale. Upon reaching the water, Xerxes ordered that his boats be tied together to create a bridge. However, when they were destroyed in a storm, he sentenced the waves themselves to 300 lashings.

With the bridges remade, his troops reached the other side and continued on their way, heading for Athens. At the base of Mount Athos, Xerxes constructed a canal through the entire peninsula so his armies could pass through. Though it would soon fall into disrepair, the site of the canal is still clearly visible today.





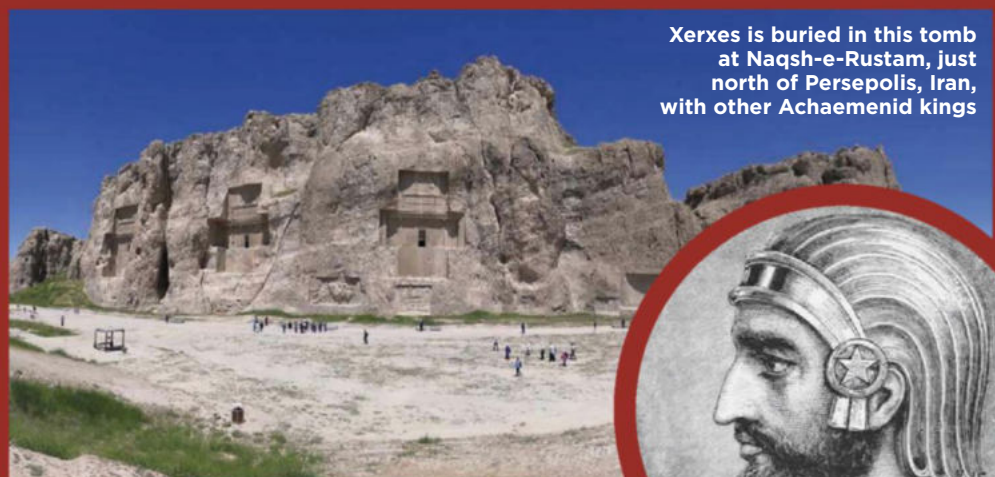
The enthroned man in this ancient relief is believed to be Xerxes, but it could be his father Darius



Xerxes watched on in despair as his ships fell victim to the waves at the Hellespont – the narrow strait between Europe and Asia

Further south at the narrow coastal pass of Thermopylae (a place the locals believed was an entrance to the underworld), Xerxes encountered his first major opponent – King Leonidas of Sparta and his elite force of 7,000 hardcore military men. Blocking the pass, the Greeks valiantly fended off the unwelcome invaders for three days, until a traitor named Ephialtes offered to guide the Persians through a secret route so they could attack the Spartans from behind.

Though Xerxes had been warned not to underestimate the Spartans by his old friend Demaratus, he failed to anticipate the true nature of their warrior culture. Many of Leonidas's men fled once they saw they were completely surrounded by Persians, but



Xerxes is buried in this tomb at Naqsh-e-Rustam, just north of Persepolis, Iran, with other Achaemenid kings



FAMILY HISTORY CYRUS AND DARIUS

Xerxes lived in the shadow of his ancestors. His grandfather, Cyrus the Great, was the founder of the Achaemenid Empire, uniting peoples from the Mediterranean to the Indus Valley. His 30-year reign allowed individual kingdoms to flourish, creating a period of cultural and religious exchange that was unprecedented in the ancient world. Additionally, the Bible remembers him as the liberator of Jewish prisoners in Babylon. Cyrus's use of political savvy, military strategy and charisma ensured his legacy as the greatest ruler the Persian Empire had ever seen.

Darius I, Cyrus's son-in-law, followed in his footsteps. He extended the empire Cyrus had built and reigned over millions of people. He also was a great administrator, and built upon his predecessor's ideas. Namely, he organised

the kingdoms of the empire into different *satraps*, and every province had to pay a certain fee to his government each year. A universal currency and weight system was introduced to promote trade between the regions. Though he unified the area in many ways, Darius continued to practise cultural and religious sensitivity, recognising its necessity for the survival of the empire. In Egypt, for example, he built temples to local gods.

As well as his army campaigns, Darius increased the power and prestige of the Achaemenid dynasty by constructing monumental structures, including an entire complex of palaces, government buildings and entertainment halls at Persepolis. He even constructed himself a grand, rock-cut burial chamber for his body to rest in for all eternity – well, until it was looted just over a century later.

TO THE EDGE OF THE EARTH

THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE

Larger than any empire before it, the Achaemenid Empire placed Persia at the centre of a 2-million-square-mile territory, stretching from eastern Europe to Pakistan. It started to grow during the reign of Cyrus the Great, leader of a nomadic ethnic group called the Persians. After uniting his own people, he continued to invade the lands east and west of Iranian territory. Implementing a system in which local leaders were given *satrapies* (or power over their own domains), Cyrus the Great could devolve administrative duties while retaining the position of 'King of Kings'.

Under Darius the Great, the empire stretched to its greatest extent. Continuing to make use of Cyrus's strategy, the Achaemenid kingdoms thrived, even taking some territory from their arch-rival, Greece. Subjugating large parts of Macedonia, Persia was well-positioned for an invasion of the rest of the country.

However, Xerxes' failed invasion meant all Persia's European dominions were lost. But Persia's dealings with Greece were not yet over. In 334 BC, over a century after Xerxes' death, Alexander the Great would plough

through Mesopotamia, claiming much of its territory for Macedonia. Recognising the genius of its creators, though, he kept the old administrative systems in place.

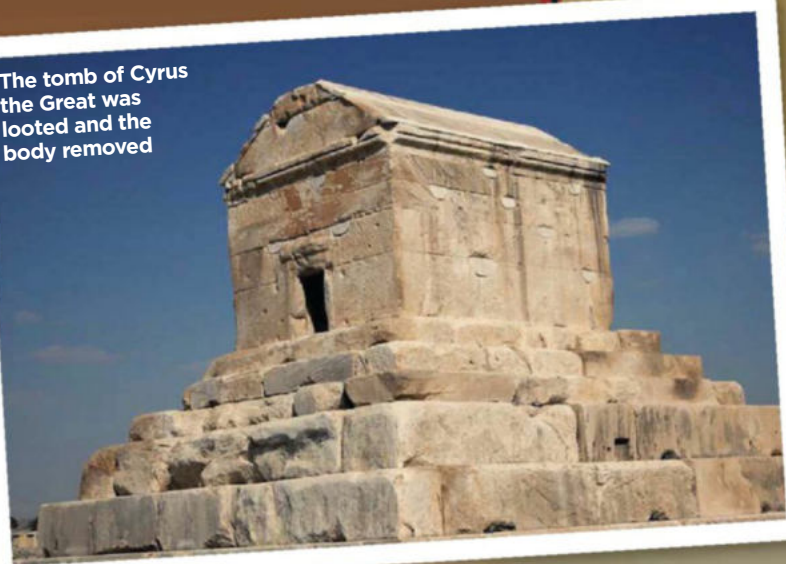
The Macedonian general also made sure to pay his respects to the empire's founder, Cyrus, when he visited his tomb

in Pasargadae. Horrified that people had looted it, he insisted upon a full restoration of the legendary emperor's tomb. It has become a national symbol of Iran, a place where people come together to celebrate Iranian New Year and the man who founded their great civilisation.

Persian Empire at the greatest extent



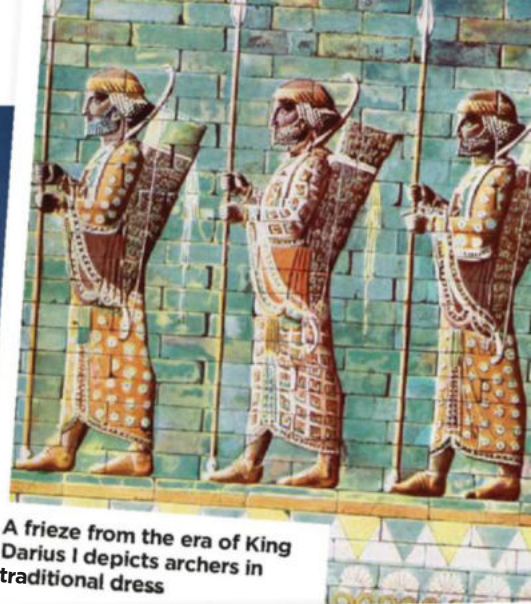
The tomb of Cyrus the Great was looted and the body removed



When Alexander the Great saw the destruction, he ordered that Cyrus's tomb be restored



The ruins of the Gate of All Nations at Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire



A frieze from the era of King Darius I depicts archers in traditional dress



300: *Rise of an Empire's* costume designer clearly took some liberties with Xerxes' attire...

“The commander knew the Persians’ strength, but also their King’s arrogance”

300 Spartans stayed behind to fight and die with honour. After annihilating them, Xerxes continued his southward march, reaching Athens and razing the city to the ground.

At this point, it looked as if domination of all Greece was in the bag. Xerxes would go down in history as the ruler who had not only put down insurrection after insurrection, but controlled more territory than his powerful father ever did. Hungry for more, Xerxes took the fight to the Peloponnese, south of Corinth. The tides would soon dramatically turn on the Persians.

Against the advice of a wise warrior queen, Artemisia, Xerxes had his navy attack the Greek fleet at Salamis. Their commander, Themistocles, was a savvy man who knew the Persians’ strength, but also their King’s arrogance. He lured them into a battle by pretending to flee through a narrow channel, cutting off most of the vastly superior Persian ships. Despite having half as many boats, the Greeks won a resounding victory. Xerxes, witnessing events from his perch on Mount Aigaleo, panicked. He and most of his army fled later that day.

One year on, the dregs of the Persian forces in Greece took a last stand at Plataea. Thinking the united Greek forces that had come to attack were in retreat, a Persian general launched a

counter-offensive, at which point the Greeks turned around and gave battle. Since they were better prepared and better armed, the Greeks easily overwhelmed the Persians, and went to their camp to finish off the rest of the stragglers.

UNDIGNIFIED DEATH

Xerxes never fully recovered from this massive failure. Instead of military campaigns, he turned his attention to building projects that had been started by his father. Like his ambitions, Xerxes’ plans were lofty and grand. Some of the palaces he built can still be seen at the ancient site of Persepolis, near Shiraz in Iran.

The last years of Xerxes’ life were spent dealing with trifling harem intrigues and attempts to usurp the throne. According to historians, one of his mistresses (who was also his niece) asked for a gift that would have granted her equivalent power to the Queen. Enraged, the Queen ordered Xerxes to put most of his brother’s family to death.

Then, in 465 BC, the King himself was assassinated. As part of a conspiracy to overthrow the Achaemenid dynasty, Xerxes’ chief bodyguard and right-hand-man Artabanus had placed seven of his own sons in key positions. With the help of a devious eunuch, he then murdered Xerxes. Artabanus’s family

was now poised to take power for themselves. However, they were foiled when one of Xerxes’ children discovered the plot, killed Artabanus, and went on to rule as Artaxerxes I.

The legacy of Xerxes is a mixed one. Owing to the fact that most of our sources about him come from Greek historians – who had an axe to grind after the Persian invasion – he is seen in a negative light. He has become the laughing stock of plays, operas, and films, most recently in the action thriller *300*.

We may never know the whole truth about this iconic Persian ruler, who precipitated the decline of the omnipotent Achaemenid Empire. However, the mark he left on the world was profound, and the grand palaces he constructed have been enough to tantalise archaeologists and enthusiasts alike for thousands of years, and probably many more to come. 📍

GET HOOKED

BOOK

Xerxes: A Persian Life by Richard Stoneman draws on the latest research and archaeology to tell the story of Xerxes from a Persian perspective, and explains how his reputation was destroyed by Greek propaganda.

VISIT

London’s British Museum has a fantastic collection of Persian artefacts.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Who was the greatest of the ancient kings?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



IN PICTURES
POST-WAR
BRITAIN

REBUILDING THE NATION

After World War II, Britain lay in ruins. Soldiers returned home to find squalor and devastation. The next few years would be times of great adjustment and change

HOMECOMING

Hector Murdoch's wife and young son run to him as he returns from the war. His London home was destroyed, and like many others, his family was relocated to a prefabricated estate.

GETTY X5

DEMOB-HAPPY

As Brits returned from war, the demobilisation process began



SHEDDING THEIR SKINS

Men leave a demobilisation centre in Lancashire, having officially been signed off from active duty in June 1945. Some are so keen to get out of uniform that they've put on their civilian clothes already; others carry them in sacks.



SUITED AND BOOTED

When they were demobilised, every man was given a new set of civilian clothing consisting of a three-piece suit, shirt, tie, hat and pair of shoes, as it was assumed they'd no longer have their pre-war outfits. Here, soldier Egerton Savory is measured up. He proceeded to choose a pinstripe suit, which he thought "would serve [him] for office wear".

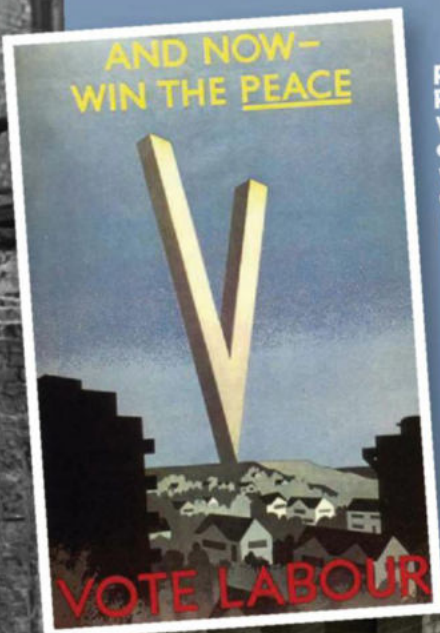
ON THE BUSES

Once former soldiers had settled into peacetime life, many were eager to return to work. Positions that women had filled during the war were reopened to men, and some new recruits would require training. The men below are being trained up as London bus conductors in Chiswick.



LABOUR VICTORY

In July 1945, voters gave Labour a mandate to build a new Britain



PEACETIME PROMISES

With many exhausted from war, Labour offered voters a programme of universal health care, full employment and a welfare state. This resonated more strongly with the British electorate than Conservative notions of granting India 'dominion' status.



A DAY TO REMEMBER

Polling day saw record numbers of turnout. Nearly 73 per cent of voters went to their local polling stations, which were set up in makeshift locations. This one was at the Italian Hospital in Holborn - its bricked-up windows a hangover from the war.



SURPRISE SUCCESS

The results of the election were not announced until nearly three weeks after polling day, to allow votes to arrive from electors still serving abroad. The first Labour prime minister, Clement Attlee, pictured here in Westminster, emerged victorious. The 12 per cent swing in favour of Labour came as a shock to all - not least to Attlee himself.



UPROOTED

A family in Salisbury, whose home was destroyed in the war, take matters into their own hands and move into disused army barracks. The waiting list for housing in this city stood at 1,600.



MAKING DO

Against a backdrop of blitzed London, men enjoy a game of cricket on their lunch break.



ON THE STREET

Residents of Ealing set up camp on the street in the summer of 1947, with all their possessions in tow.



IN PICTURES POST-WAR BRITAIN



**"THE WORLD THAT
MUST EMERGE FROM
THIS WAR MUST BE A
WORLD ATTUNED
TO OUR IDEALS"**

CLEMENT ATTLEE, 1940 LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE



OPEN HOUSE

One solution to the housing crisis was to erect prefab housing estates - ready-made homes that could be put together quickly and cheaply. Here, in Watford, children help shift a house onto its foundations.

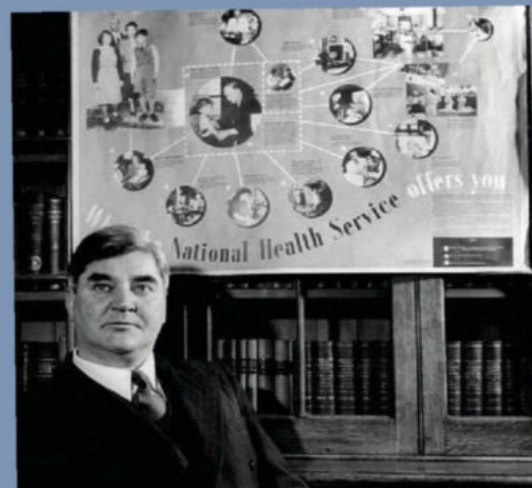


FLYING THE FLAG

Miners hold a banner for the new National Coal Board, 1947. Major industries that had been privately run were nationalised to provide more jobs for the unemployed.

THE NHS IS BORN

One of Britain's defining institutions was born out of high public demand



CHANGE IS NYE

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, the Minister of Health, was one of the NHS's pioneers. When the controversial Beveridge Report of 1942 was published, it recommended the creation of a welfare state with a health service to care for Britain's sick and injured. Bevan's guiding principles were that healthcare should meet the needs of everyone, be free at the point of delivery, and not be based on the patient's ability to pay.



TRANSPORT ACT 1947

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
LONDON MIDLAND & SCOTTISH RAILWAY COMPANY
LONDON & NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
LONDON PASSENGER TRANSPORT BOARD

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the Transport Act 1947 the Undertakings of the above named bodies have been transferred to the British Transport Commission on 1st January 1948, and that on and after the said date all the regulations, conditions, notices, and notices published by any of the said bodies in connection with the operation immediately before the said date shall continue to apply and after the said date shall be deemed to have been published and issued in the name of the British Transport Commission.

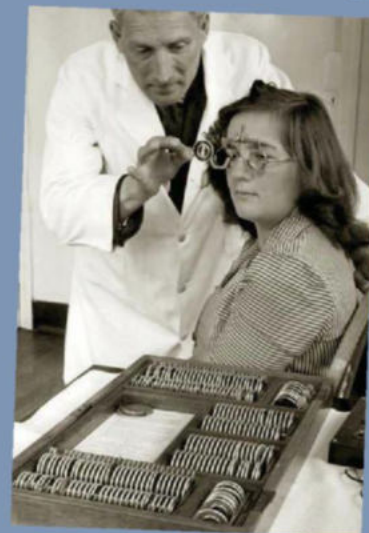
BY ORDER

NATIONAL RAIL

A year later, in 1948, Britain's railways were nationalised. The theory was that the railways would work together and put passengers first – not profit.

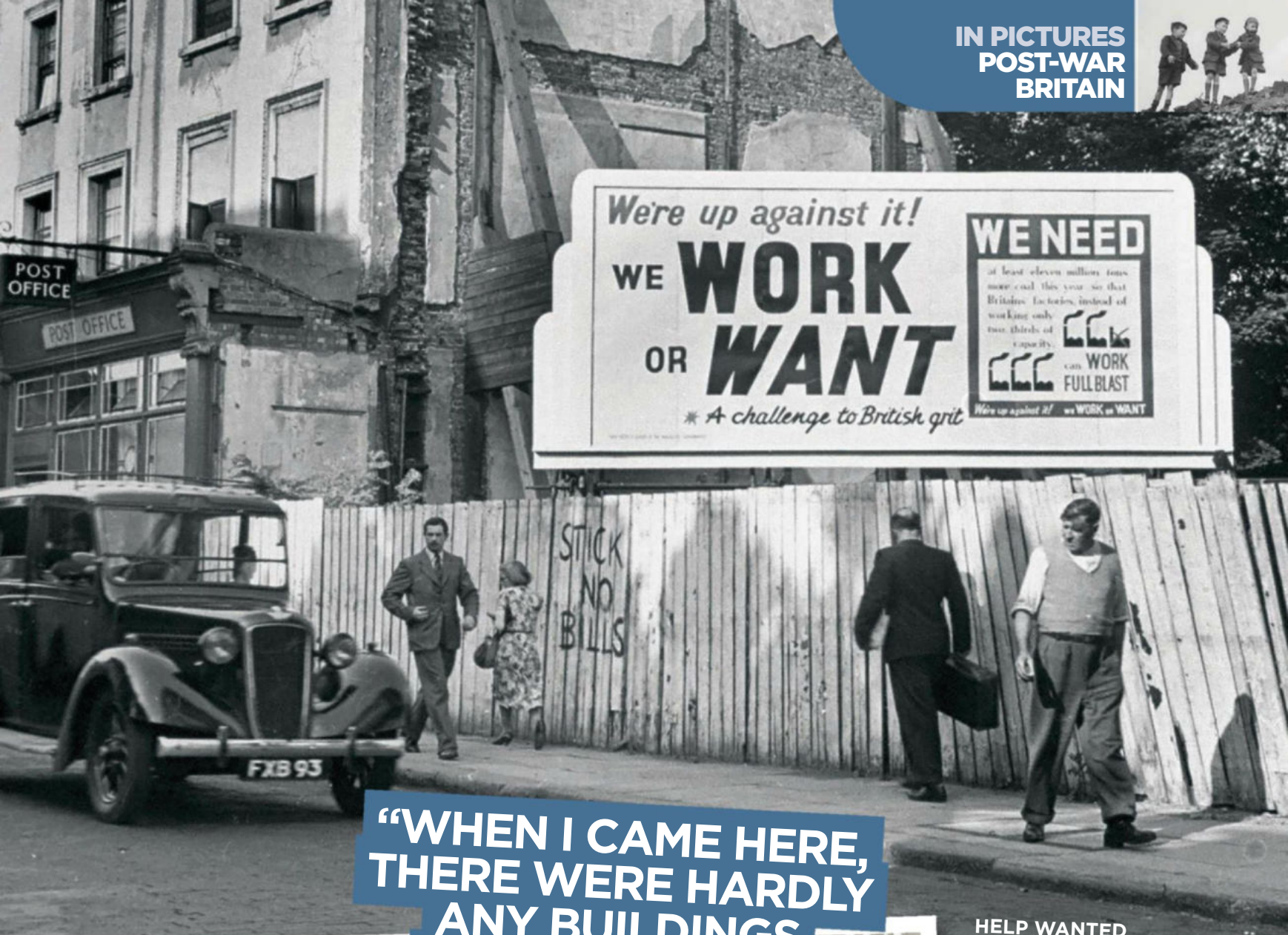
VISION OF THE FUTURE

As well as standard hospital and GP services, the new NHS included dental work and opticianry. In this image, a young woman from Bristol is being tested for a new pair of basic spectacles, which for the first time would be 100 per cent free. So-called 'fancy frames' cost extra.



CRADLE TO GRAVE

A newborn baby is placed on chilly iron scales to be weighed, while its mother watches attentively. Bevan's idea was that healthcare would cover people right from their mother's pregnancy to the very end of their natural lives.



Were up against it!

WE **WORK**
OR **WANT**

** A challenge to British grit*

WE NEED

at least eleven million tons more coal this year so that Britain's factories, instead of working only two-thirds of capacity.

WE CAN WORK FULL BLAST

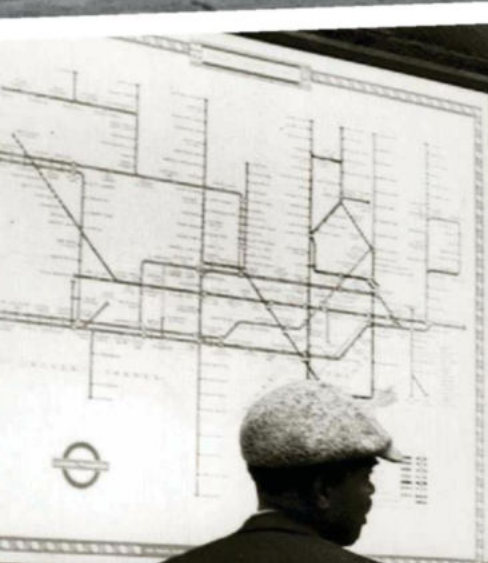
Were up against it! we WORK or WANT

“WHEN I CAME HERE, THERE WERE HARDLY ANY BUILDINGS LEFT STANDING”

LUCILE HARRIS, JAMAICAN ‘WINDRUSH’ PASSENGER

HELP WANTED

Due to the loss of much of Britain's young male population, there was a skilled-labour shortage after 1945. This billboard calls for more miners.



GOING UNDERGROUND

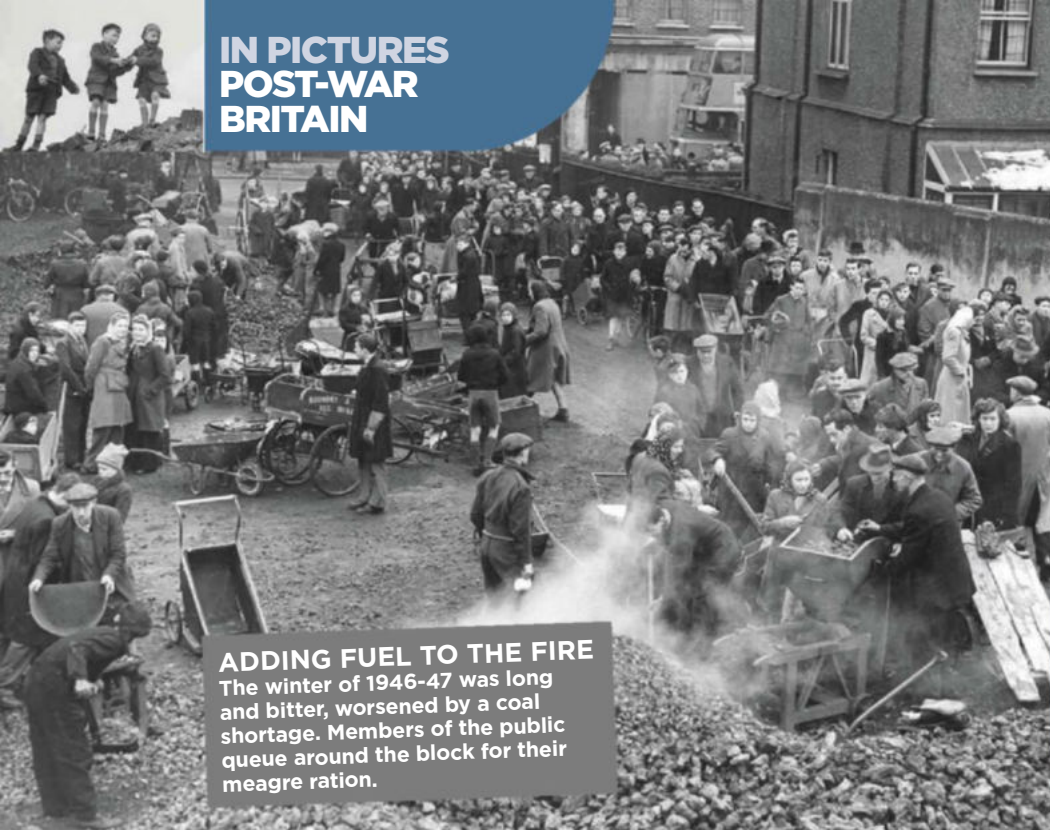
Immigration from the Commonwealth was encouraged. For example, the London Underground actively recruited workers direct from Jamaica.



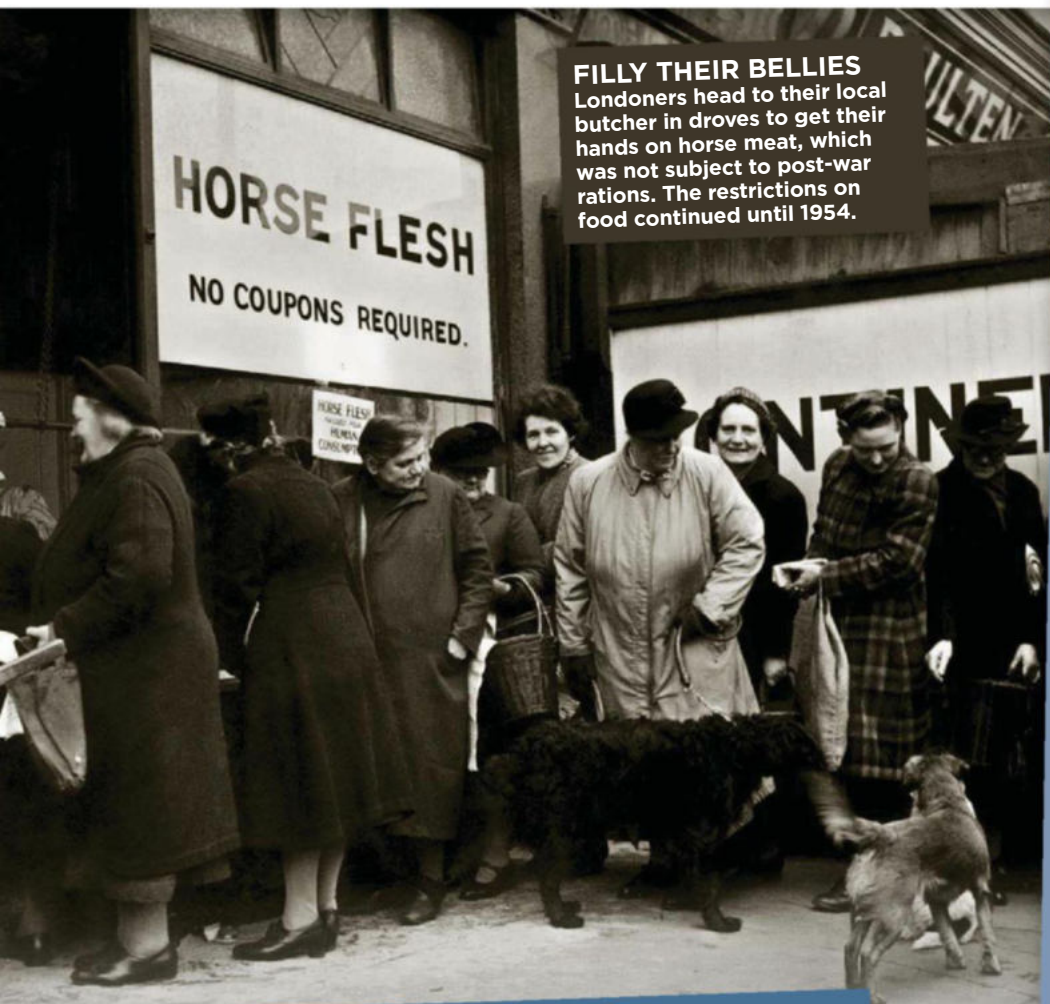
STEAMING AHEAD

The first batch of nearly 500 Jamaican immigrants arrives on the *Empire Windrush*, 1948.

IN PICTURES POST-WAR BRITAIN



ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE
The winter of 1946-47 was long and bitter, worsened by a coal shortage. Members of the public queue around the block for their meagre ration.



FILLY THEIR BELLIES
Londoners head to their local butcher in droves to get their hands on horse meat, which was not subject to post-war rations. The restrictions on food continued until 1954.

**“WE HAVE ALL, I FEEL,
A GREAT DEAL IN
COMMON”**

WINSTON CHURCHILL, 1951

CHURCHILL WINS

Despite the progress made by Labour, by 1951 Britons were tired of shortages



ON THE TRAIL

After Labour won a slim majority in the 1950 elections, it tried to increase its majority in 1951. Though its policies were popular, the party was divided, and the Conservatives presented a better-organised, well-funded campaign.



V FOR VICTORY

The Tories also had the advantage of Winston Churchill as their leader. With UK troops away fighting in Korea, the popular war leader took advantage of his military record and won the voters' confidence.

THE PEOPLE'S PEACE

Cabby Larry Bond gleefully receives the news of Churchill's win the morning of Friday 26 October. Over the next three decades, the 'post-war consensus' would endure, with parties on both ends of the spectrum encouraging nationalisation, trade unions, high taxes and a generous welfare state.



Look to the future while examining the past...



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THE BUNION DERBY

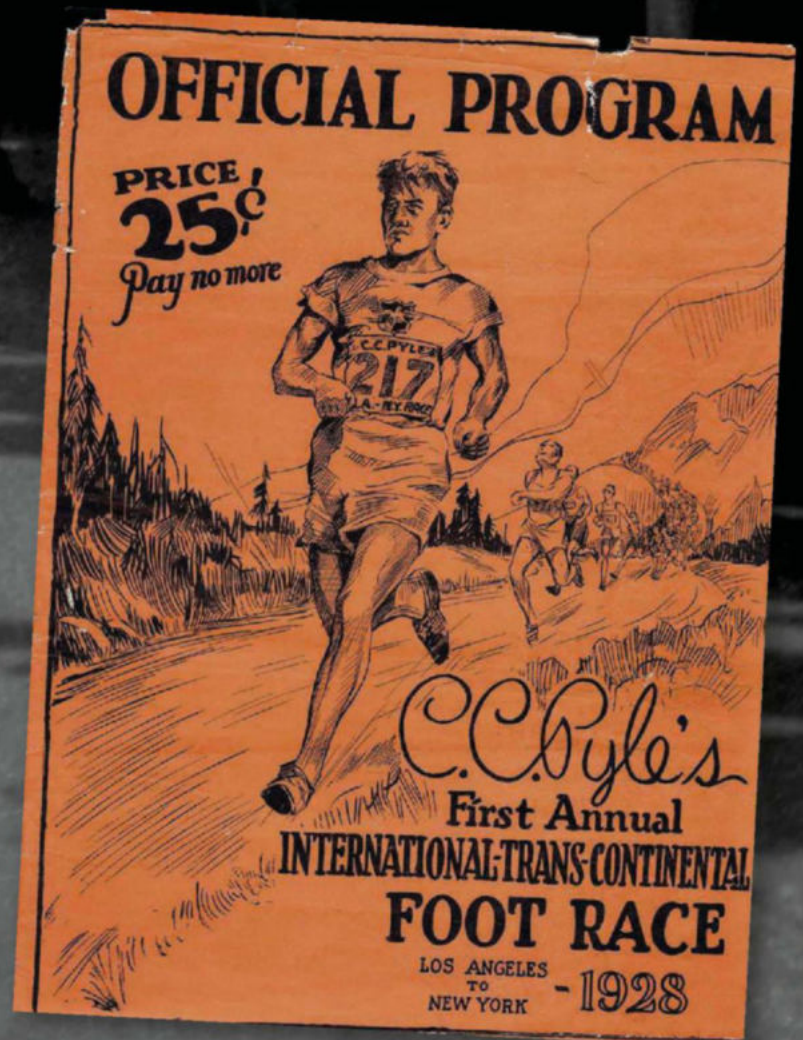
Pat Kinsella follows in the countless steps of an event that redefined the meaning of cross-country running: the 1928 Trans-American Footrace from Los Angeles to New York



“It’s not even good foolishness”

Competitor Andy Payne’s father’s opinion of the race across America

ON YOUR MARKS...
Race competitors line up for the start of the Oklahoma stage (*main*). The official programme (*right*) claimed there were 275 participants, but only 199 made it through the intensive training





One mid-afternoon in March 1928, a motley mob of men left a racetrack in Los Angeles and began an extraordinary 3,422-mile footrace. The epic event, quickly dubbed the Bunion Derby, sent them across scorching deserts, over freezing mountain ranges and through merciless amounts of mud, endless dust-blown prairies and car-choked city streets from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean.

With competitors hailing from all over the world, and every kind of social and ethnic background represented, the 84-day race ignited excitement and outrage in equal measure, with black athletes subjected to dreadful abuse and intimidation in the segregated South.

The race, which followed the newly forged, rough-as-guts Route 66 Highway for the first 2,400 miles, was organised by CC Pyle, a colourful character with flexible morals whose grand schemes occasionally outgrew his ability to deliver.

On average, 'Bunioneers' ran 40 miles a day, in all kinds of conditions, typically with no decent food and very shoddy shelter waiting at the end of each leg. Stages could extend to almost 80 miles, with competitors facing potential disqualification if they failed to finish by midnight.

Some runners adopted stray dogs along the way; one, a German shepherd named Blisters, kept pace with the race for 500 miles. Others found the energy to entertain themselves in the evenings by dancing – until one competitor sustained a race-ending injury during a jig.

Exposure, exhaustion, illness and injuries forced runners from the field almost daily, right from the off, and it quickly became a war of attrition as much as a test of endurance. Ultimately, only a quarter of those who set out from LA would run across the finish in Madison Square Gardens. But what a strange story those 50 odd men had to tell.

ROUTE 66 KICKS

CC Pyle, a flashy and successful sport agent, had been commissioned to stage an event to promote the newly opened Route 66 Highway. Enlisting the help of his star signing, Red Grange – the best American football player of his generation and a guaranteed crowd magnet – Pyle's idea was to merge a multiday ultramarathon with a travelling carnival.

Other attractions that travelled across the US with Grange and the runners included a human freak show and the embalmed body of Oklahoma outlaw Elmer McCurdy, who'd been killed in a gunfight 17 years earlier.

Pyle intended charging towns and cities a fee for the privilege of hosting this strange circus, but first he needed some serious contenders – and lots of media coverage.

He opened the race to any physically fit male, and promised an eye-popping purse of \$25,000 for the winner, the equivalent of 20 years' wages

THE MAIN PLAYERS

ANDY PAYNE

The 20-year-old part-Cherokee farm boy from Foyil, Oklahoma, was locally renowned for fleet-footed feats, occasionally outrunning horses, but was a complete underdog against the line-up of elites Pyle had pulled in. After winning the 1928 race, he worked as a state law official and died in 1977.

CHARLES C PYLE

Race organiser and America's first professional sports agent, given the nickname 'Cash-and-Carry' Pyle (and 'Corns and Callus' Pyle). After riding his luck during the first race, the 1929 version was a financial failure.

JOHNNY SALO

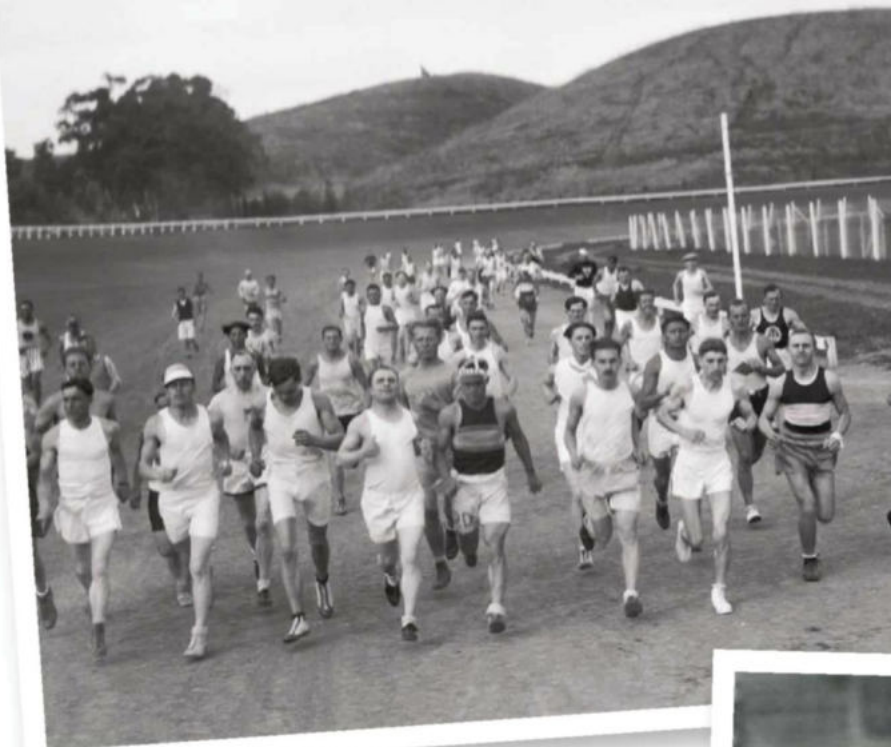
Finland-born immigrant, WWI veteran and blue-collar worker who scored a job as a New Jersey police officer during the 1928 race, where he came second, and won the 1929 race. In 1931, he was killed while on duty at a baseball game, after being struck in the head by the ball.

PETE GAVUZZI

Just 22 in 1928, Gavuzzi was English with an Italian/French background. After leading the 1928 Bunion Derby and coming second in 1929, he emigrated to Canada and became a notable coach, training four-time Boston marathon winner Gérard Côté and Walter Young.

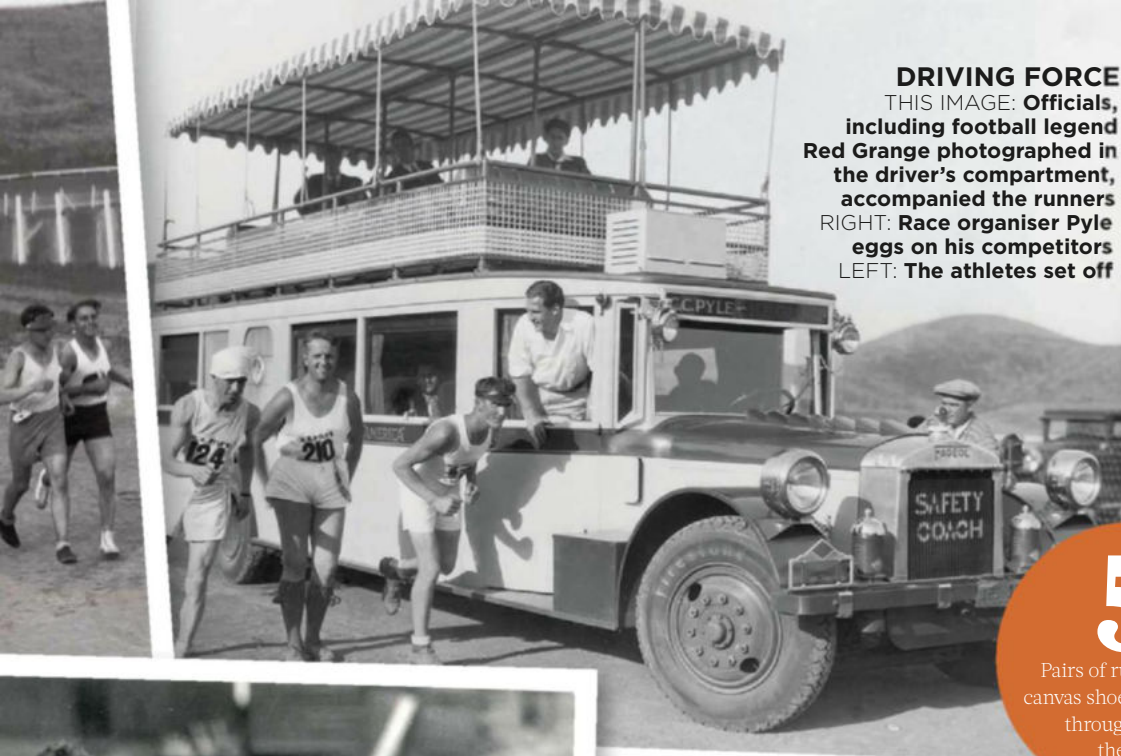
EDWARD GARDNER

Nicknamed 'The Sheik' because he ran with a towel tied around his head, Gardner had great ability, stamina and technique, and won multiple stages, but he suffered awful racist abuse and injuries, and finally finished eighth.



"It quickly became a war of attrition as much as a test of endurance"





DRIVING FORCE
THIS IMAGE: Officials, including football legend Red Grange photographed in the driver's compartment, accompanied the runners
RIGHT: Race organiser Pyle eggs on his competitors
LEFT: The athletes set off



5

Pairs of rubber-soled canvas shoes Payne went through during the race



for a manual labourer. This and other cash prizes attracted a disparate crowd of drifters, dreamers and desperately poor men, as well as elite international athletes.

In return for the \$125 entry fee, Pyle promised to provide shelter and food to all competitors for the duration of the race, or for as long as it took them to quit – because he well knew that many men would never make the distance.

Setting up camp at Ascot Park, LA, Pyle informed would-be competitors they needed to be there by 12 February 1928, for 'final training'. For the 275 men who showed up, this involved a 6am breakfast, followed by a 25- to 50-mile run, lunch, more exercise in the afternoon, dinner, then bed by 9pm. It cost 50 cents per night for a bed and 50 cents for every meal.

This quickly whittled the starting line-up down, and by race day, 76 had dropped out. Before the start, the event physician, John Baker, examined the 199 remaining men and declared only 40 of them fit enough to withstand the race – but the rest chose to run regardless. A prominent medical expert, Dr KH Begg, predicted the race would take five to ten years off the runners' lives.

The first day was a comparatively short 17-mile jog to La Puente, CA, but that night, runners discovered what it was going to be like trying to rest while Pyle's cacophonous carnival was in full swing next to their camp.

It was a stage race, so runners' times were clocked daily, and the following morning everyone fit enough to continue would line up and start together. Some celebrity 'pedestrians' – such as Canada's Philip Granville, Italian Giusto Umek and Harry Gunn, son of an American millionaire – walked every day, claiming the runners wouldn't be able to sustain their pace for the full distance, and that a tortoise could beat a hare in such a long race.

Stages rapidly lengthened and the race soon entered the furnace of the Mojave Desert, where competitors faced 30°C heat and a relentless,

blazing Sun sitting on their right shoulder from dawn to dusk.

Water stations were few and far between. Up to 16 men dropped out every day for the first four stages, including race leader Willie Kolehmainen.

And it wasn't just the climate that took its toll. One runner, Walter Ricketts, was hit by a car and left for dead by the side of the road with seven broken ribs. Sleeping conditions were dire, washing facilities almost non-existent, and filthy, unwashed blankets and pillows were dished out randomly each night.

Pyle's cook quit in a row over wages, and the men were subsequently given a \$1.50 daily allowance and left to find their own food after running what often amounted to a double marathon. Some of the luckier, well-heeled runners had support crew, and were able to procure better lodgings and food, and it rapidly became a race of haves and have-nots.

RUN FOR THE HILLS

On day nine, the 130 remaining runners were ferried across the Colorado River to begin tackling the high country of Arizona. Leading the field was Arthur Newton, an ex-pat Brit who'd made a name for himself in South African running circles, with a young Native American called Andy Payne in second place.

As they crossed the spine of the Rocky Mountains – topping out at Fortynine Hill (2,400 metres), then Route 66's highest point – Newton felt his Achilles tendon twinge. From Flagstaff, they descended 300 metres to the high desert near Diablo Canyon and a previously unscheduled stop at Two Gun Camp, with a talented black runner called Ed Gardner winning the 35-mile stage with Earl Dilks.

Newton finished third, limping badly, and the following day retired from the race. Payne, who'd been nearly five hours behind, found himself in first place, but he'd developed severe tonsillitis, and his lead was shortlived. Arne Souminen, a Detroit doctor, overtook him in Holbrook, and Payne's name was mistakenly scrubbed from the leaderboard by officials who thought he looked too ill to continue.

Englishman Peter Gavuzzi, Finnish-born immigrant Johnny Salo and John Cronick, a



RUN DOWN

ABOVE: Tom Young agreed to train 20-year-old Andy Payne, but Payne fell ill several weeks into the derby
THIS IMAGE: Ed Gardner, one of only five African-American competitors, was subject to racist abuse as he passed through the Jim Crow states

CROSSING A CONTINENT

Much of the iconic Route 66 was still unsealed in 1928, when sport agent CC Pyle was commissioned to organise an epic running race along its 2,400-mile length. For commercial reasons, Pyle extended the course to New York, to make it a 3,422.3-mile coast-to-coast challenge.

1 3.30 PM, SUNDAY 4 MARCH 1928 Ascot Park Speedway, Los Angeles, California

The Trans-American Footrace begins, with 199 runners taking part and around half a million people turning out to see them off. The first leg was the shortest of the lot, an easy 17 miles to La Puente.

2 6 MARCH Victorville, California

Within days the race enters the Mojave Desert, leaving Bloomington, going through Cajon Pass and into the searing heat. The rudimentary road is rough and rocky, and automobiles stir up dust, which runners battle through. One man is hit by a car, another by a motorbike.

3 12-19 MARCH Two Gun Camp, near Flagstaff, Arizona

Crossing the Colorado in Arizona, runners swap dry desert for mountains and cold late-winter conditions. Race leader Arthur Newton injures his Achilles crossing Route 66's highest point on Fortynine Hill and is forced to retire from the race. Second-placed Payne comes down with severe tonsillitis here too.

4 28 MARCH Albuquerque, New Mexico

After another ten days of high-altitude running, Peter Gavuzzi begins to gain on the front-runners Andy Payne and Arne Souminen, who have exchanged the race lead. In Albuquerque, the biggest town the race has entered since LA, the mayor snubs Pyle's carnival and the race finances descend into a perilous state.

5 EASTER, 6-8 APRIL Amarillo, Texas

Runners endure their worst day around Amarillo, with awful conditions turning the road into a quagmire. Race leader Arne Souminen rips tendons on Easter Sunday (8 April) and is forced to pull out of the race, leaving Andy Payne and Peter Gavuzzi to duke it out for top spot.

6 17 APRIL Claremore, Oklahoma

Oklahoman Andy Payne crosses the border into Texola in the lead, and stays ahead though his hometown of Foyil and into Claremore, the halfway point from LA to New York. Here, he receives a 21-gun salute from the Military Academy, but is slowed down by his own enthusiastic supporters across Oklahoma.

7 27 APRIL St Louis, Illinois

Payne loses the overall lead to Gavuzzi as they run through Missouri and enter Illinois. As the race crosses the Mississippi, Pyle's financial situation worsens when the St Louis Chamber of Commerce refuses to pay his \$12,000 fee.

8 11 MAY Fremont, Ohio

By the time the race leaves Chicago, Payne is trailing Gavuzzi by almost seven hours, but the Englishman is nursing a painful tooth abscess that leaves him unable to eat for two weeks, and he is forced to retire from the race 34 miles west of Fremont.



9 24 MAY Passaic, New Jersey

As the race passes through Johnny Salo's hometown, Payne is given a police escort after fears of violence from local supporters (although the two men had actually forged a solid friendship). Salo is given a job as a policeman, a role he takes up after the race.

10 26 MAY New York City

On the last day of the epic transcontinental race, 84 days after leaving LA and having run 3,422 miles, 55 men cross the Hudson River into Manhattan and have to do 200 laps around a slippery track in Madison Square Gardens. Payne wins the race with a time of 573 hours, 4 minutes, 34 seconds, some 15 hours ahead of second-placed Johnny Salo.

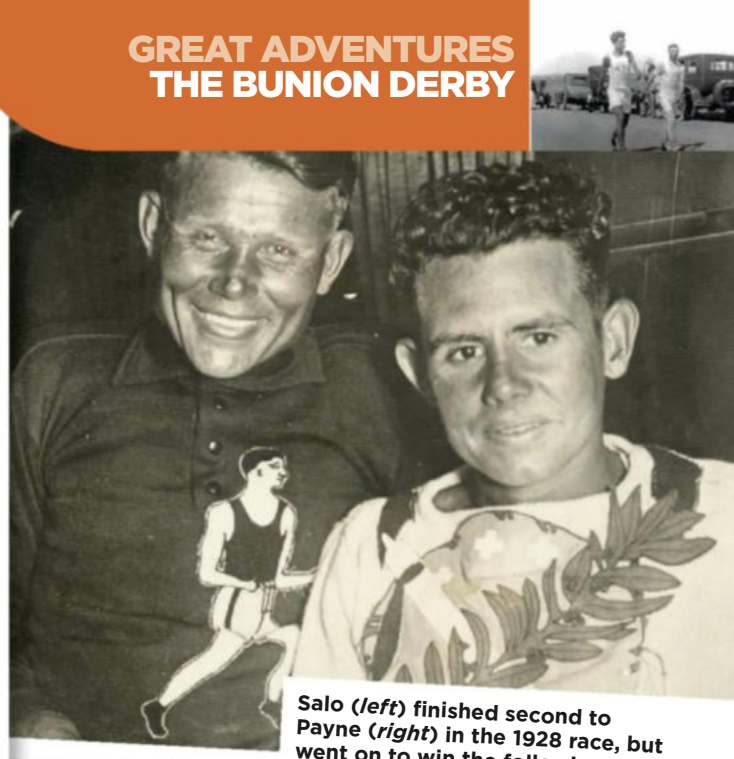




Competitor Johnny Salo is sworn in as a Passaic city police officer while still in his running gear



Andy Payne maintains a strong lead the day before the end of the race



Salo (left) finished second to Payne (right) in the 1928 race, but went on to win the following year

GREAT ADVENTURES THE BUNION DERBY

25-year-old cross-country runner from Canada, were hot on the leaders' heels, and Gardner won two stages through Arizona's Painted Desert, leaping up into fifth place.

Running through the mist in the New Mexico highlands, Gavuzzi began gaining on Payne and Souminen, posting 8.5-minute miles during a stage win at Thoreau and covering 30 miles in under four hours the next day.

Behind the scenes, different clouds were gathering. In late March, the race crossed the Rio Grande at Los Lunas and entered Albuquerque, where the local mayor refused to allow the carnival to operate and Pyle's plans began to unravel. Gavuzzi leapfrogged Payne into second place, crossing the great plain that stretched from Santa Rosa to Tucumcari, where storms reduced visibility to zero, but much worse awaited in Texas – especially for athletes of African descent.

Ed Gardner reached the border first, but during the six-day crossing of the Texas Panhandle, the black runners suffered terrible abuse from some local white farmers. In McLean, over Easter – having battled though blizzards and ankle-deep mud – local hotels wouldn't accept the black runners, who slept on the floors of jails, post offices and barns.

Race leader Souminen suffered tendon damage on Easter Sunday and withdrew from the race. Payne – who'd recovered his health with the help of a trainer, Tom Young, employed on the promise of a percentage of any winnings – stole the lead from Gavuzzi as the race passed through his home state of Oklahoma, where the part-Cherokee farm boy quickly became a huge celebrity.

But the horrific abuse of black runners continued. Throughout 9 April, a white farmer rode behind Gardner with a gun pointing at his back, forbidding him to pass any white runner. The following day, Gardner let loose, smashing the 50-mile leg into Clinton in six hours 40 minutes, finishing two hours ahead of Payne and Gavuzzi and infuriating some spectators.

The race passed Payne's hometown of Foyil with the local lad in the lead, however, and in nearby Claremore – the halfway point of the race – he was given a 21-gun salute. So many people tried to shake his hand that the adulation began to impact Payne's performance.

With fewer than 80 men remaining, the race skimmed Kansas before entering Missouri in mid April. By the time they reached the Mississippi River and entered Illinois, Gavuzzi – proudly sporting a Union Jack flag – had taken the lead and put a good cushion between himself and Payne. With third-placed Johnny Salo even further adrift, it had become a battle between Britain and America.

15–63

Age range of the runners who competed in the 1928 race

INTO THE APPLE


By the time the race outran Route 66 and left Chicago, Gavuzzi's lead was seven hours and the field was down to 65 men. Several more Bunioneers were taken out by collisions with cars on Illinois' congested roads, but a different problem crashed Gavuzzi's race. Suffering severely with a tooth problem, the Englishman had been unable to eat for a fortnight, and on 11 May, just past Fremont, he was forced to withdraw. Payne was once again left in the lead.

Pyle's problems continued to mount up, particularly after the St Louis Chamber of Commerce refused to pay his \$12,000 fee, and the daily running distances were increased to cut costs. On three consecutive days, runners covered 52 miles, 58 miles and almost 75 miles under a blistering Sun on mountain roads.

This didn't seem to affect second-placed Johnny Salo, who bravely attacked Payne's lead as the race continued through Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. When runners reached Passaic, Salo's hometown, on his 35th birthday, the local police chief offered the unemployed shipworker a job – an offer he immediately accepted. Meanwhile, fearing

violence from Salo's supporters (even though the runners had become good friends), Payne was given a police escort through the town.

Finally, 84 brutal days after leaving LA, 55 men crossed the Hudson River to Manhattan, where they were forced to do 200 miserable and pointless laps around a slippery track in Madison Square Gardens – a final flourish introduced by Pyle to squeeze some extra publicity money from the event. The placings were already decided, and most of the Sun-mangled and emaciated men simply walked around the park.

Payne, a 20-year-old farm boy, had won the inaugural Trans-American Footrace with a time of 573 hours, four minutes, 34 seconds. He collected his winnings, paid off his parents' farm, and promptly retired from running. 

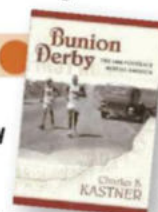
GET HOOKED

READ

Bunion Derby: The 1928 Footrace Across America by Charles B Kastner, for a more in-depth retelling.

VISIT

The Andy Payne memorial statue in Foyil, Oklahoma.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Doctors examined finishers afterwards, and found no ill effects. Pyle held a second race in 1929, travelling in the opposite direction from New York to Los Angeles. Salo won this race, finishing 40 hours faster than Payne's 1928 time and narrowly beating Pete Gavuzzi by just two minutes 47 seconds in an exciting stadium finale after 78 days of running. This time, however, neither man received his promised prize.

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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

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• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p78 • **WHAT IS IT?** p83

OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



JULIAN HUMPHRYS

Development Officer for The Battlefields Trust and author



ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD

Author and journalist, worked on the BBC panel show *QI*



SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



RUPERT MATTHEWS

Author on a range of historical subjects, from ancient to modern



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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DID YOU KNOW?

PICKING A FIGHT

Most early gladiators were unwilling slaves, but by the first century AD, scores of free men were volunteering to fight in the arena in search of riches.

FALLEN FROM GLORY

Russell Crowe portrays Maximus Decimus Meridius, a Roman general reduced to slavery after he is betrayed by a corrupt emperor



How historically accurate was the film *Gladiator*?



In *Gladiator*, movie-makers were, unsurprisingly, more concerned with telling a good story than slavishly adhering to historical accuracy. The Rome we see on-screen is bigger and more Soviet-style grey than it was in reality, while the gladiatorial games are far more chaotic, and with many more fatalities, than contemporary accounts suggest.

The character of Emperor Commodus, a self-centred and unstable sociopath played by Joaquin Phoenix, is pretty much spot on, although the real ruler died not in the arena at the hands of General Maximus (played by Russell Crowe), but was poisoned by his concubine Marcia and then strangled in the bath by a wrestler called Narcissus. **MR**



SINGING FOR FREEDOM
Maria von Trapp (seated) with her stepchildren (from left to right): Johannes, Eleanor, Hedwig, Martina, Maria, Rosemarie and Werner

What happened to **the real von Trapp family** after they escaped the Nazis?

Despite the creative licence taken in *The Sound of Music*, the fate of the von Trapps can perhaps be considered a 'happy ending'. After winning the Salzburg Music Festival in 1936, and seeking an international stage, Captain Georg von Trapp made arrangements with an American agent and the family left just weeks after the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938. In the words of daughter Maria, however, they did not "climb over mountains" into Switzerland – they took a train to Italy, "pretending nothing". From there, they travelled to London, and then Pennsylvania for a concert tour. Having performed around America and Europe, in 1942 they settled on a farm in Vermont and established Trapp Music Camps. By Georg's death in 1947, most of his family had secured US citizenship. The former nun Maria published their story in 1949, inspiring the musical and film, and lived until 1987. **EB**

Did medieval **armour** go rusty?

Any soldiers unlucky enough not to afford the luxurious silver tunic worn by Erec in Chrétien de Troye's 1170 *Erec and Enide*, found rust a chronic nuisance. Three hundred years later in 1478, the problem was still acute. Chaucer's knight, newly returned from the wars in *The Canterbury Tales*, travels in the woollen coat he wore under his mail suit, "all besmotered" with rust, though constant wear did help thanks to the links chafing each other and acting as a mild abrasive. Traditionally, rusty hauberks were placed in a barrel of sand and rolled around until they were bright again. Modern re-enactors employ a number of products that squires would have given their tights and tunics for, from floor polish to toothpaste. **SL**

NOT-SO-SHINING ARMOUR
It can't have been easy to win over a fair maiden looking like this



WHY DO WE SAY

"IN THE LIMELIGHT"

Said of one in the full glare of publicity, limelight is an intense white light attained by heating a cylinder of quicklime in an oxyhydrogen flame. It was invented in 1826 and initially used in a lighthouse off the Kent coast. Later, it obtained special theatrical lighting effects by directing its powerful beam on to one actor at a time to highlight their performance, just as spotlights are used today. **AJ**

WHEN DID PEOPLE START DRINKING GIN AND TONIC?

This staple summer beverage actually began life as a malaria cure during the days of the British Raj. The medicinal use of quinine powder and soda tonic against fevers was embraced by the military in the early 1800s, but in the latter half of the century, some enterprising folk, hoping to make the bitter infusion more palatable, began to add sugar, lime and their gin ration. In this way, the humble 'G&T' truly sustained the troops of the British Empire, and once companies like Schweppes introduced their Indian Quinine Tonics, the combination gained popularity in Britain, too. **EB**



BITTER MEDICINE
Quinine powder, from which tonic water is made, was used to treat malaria

WHAT CONNECTS...

CARDINAL WOLSEY AND ADMIRAL NELSON?



1 In 1530, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey died in Leicester on his way south from York to face charges of treason against Henry VIII.



2 The black marble sarcophagus Wolsey had acquired for his tomb was passed to the King, but Henry died before it was finished.



3 It remained in royal hands until 1806, when King George III gave it for use as Lord Nelson's tomb following his death at Trafalgar.



4 It's now in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, with Nelson's viscount's coronet in the space intended for Wolsey's cardinal's hat.

80

The percentage of the Japanese population that was in the peasant class. The samurai made up five per cent of the population.

IN A NUTSHELL

TOKUGAWA PERIOD

A time when Japan closed off its borders and froze its social order



When was the Tokugawa period?

The Tokugawa period in Japan – also known as the Edo period – lasted between 1603 and 1868, and saw the country flourish economically and culturally. It is widely viewed as the final period of traditional Japan before it moved to a new, modern era.

Who was responsible for this era of stability?

In 1603, warrior and statesman Tokugawa Ieyasu was given the title of shogun (military governor) by Emperor Go-Yōzei in recognition of his successes in the country's civil war. The title effectively gave him control over Japan, and he set about restoring stability to the country. Among his achievements was encouraging foreign trade, particularly with Europe.

How was stability achieved?

To achieve peace and stability, the country's social order was frozen and mobility between members of Japan's four classes – samurai (warriors), farmers, artisans and merchants – was forbidden. What's more, peasants in the lowest class were only permitted to carry out agricultural activities, which in turn provided those in the higher classes with a steady source of trade and income. Each person had their own strict place in society.

In order to protect the traditional culture of Japan, which had previously been under

threat by Catholic missionaries from Europe, measures were taken to remove this 'foreign' influence from the country and Christianity was effectively banned. In addition, from 1633, Japanese people were forbidden from travelling abroad, and those who were already overseas were not allowed to return home. Trade was conducted through the southern port of Nagasaki, and only with selected Chinese, Korean and Dutch merchants.

“Japan withdrew from the world, but its economy continued to grow”

Japan withdrew from the world, but its emphasis on agriculture meant that the economy continued to grow, aided by expansion in commerce and the manufacturing industry in big urban centres such as Kyoto and Osaka. What's more, improvements to transport and communication networks meant

that even remote areas could now access goods produced in other parts of the country.

What happened to art and culture during the period?

Interest in western-style education in Japan increased, in particular geography, sciences, art and astronomy.

became known as *ukiyo* – ‘the floating world’ – and this spirit was captured in many of the artworks of the period. A new type of theatre performance also sprung up, known as *kabuki*. This type of operatic popular theatre developed at the beginning of the Edo period, and was far more fun and raucous to that which had preceded it.

Why did the Tokugawa era come to an end?

Despite lasting for more than 250 years, the Tokugawa period eventually came to an end in 1868. Several years before this, in 1853, Japan's self-imposed national isolation came to an abrupt end with the arrival of four American warships in Edo Bay. With the US demanding to be permitted to trade with Japan, the ports were slowly opened to international trade once more.

The 18th and 19th centuries had also seen a steady weakening of the shogunate, as the samurai and feudal lords failed to flourish as much as the merchant classes. Opposition to the shogunate mounted, while the peasant classes launched a number of uprisings, thanks in part to a lagging agricultural sector and a series of famines.

In 1867, two powerful clans (the Choshū and Satsuma) joined forces and toppled the shogunate, declaring the imperial restoration of the 14-year-old Emperor Meiji the following year. The Meiji period that followed is seen as the beginning of Japan's modernity.

STATE OF THE ARTS
Theatre flourished during the Tokugawa period, with the introduction of new genres like *kabuki* – a fusion of dance and drama

Neo-Confucianism – a moral, ethical and metaphysical Chinese philosophy influenced by Confucianism – flourished, and there was a renewed interest in Japanese history among the samurai class.

The country's merchant class, which was enjoying more wealth and leisure time thanks to the new regime, placed a greater value on sensual luxury, entertainment and leisure arts.

Major cities, particularly Edo, boasted pleasure quarters with shops, theatres and brothels that catered for their merchant customers. Romance literature was popular and clothing became more elaborate. Life in these pleasure quarters


EFFECTIVE RULER
As shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu held more power than even the Emperor



HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

ROMAN AQUEDUCTS

A marvel of ancient engineering, these water systems have become icons of an empire

 Water is the life source of civilisation. Today, we have sophisticated systems to collect, store and channel fresh drinking water, but ancient societies had only limited technologies to keep people in their cities well-quenched. Though evidence of such engineering can be found across the ancient world, none compare to that invented by the Romans: the aqueduct. This system used gravity to carry water huge distances from its source, through a network of downward sloping tunnels and bridges. An incredible feat of engineering, it was only recently that this technology was surpassed.

SPECUS

The water ran along the top level of the viaduct in a covered water channel known as a *specus*. Two or more channels could be built on top of one another.

CENTERING

This wooden structure bore the weight of the arch until the last stone was laid. When it was removed, the tightly slotted stones held their own weight.

SCAFFOLDING

Wooden scaffolding was erected to allow workmen to reach heights up to 48m.

OUTER

The structure was faced with a mix of lime and crushed ceramic.

MATERIALS

Limestone was the most common building material for aqueducts.

The Pont du Gard in southern France is one of the world's best-preserved aqueducts

ARCHES

Bridges had up to three tiers of arches. These were narrow to provide maximum strength.

PIERS

Up to five-metre-wide piers (pillars) were required to bear the weight of the arch tiers. These were usually longer at the base of the structure.

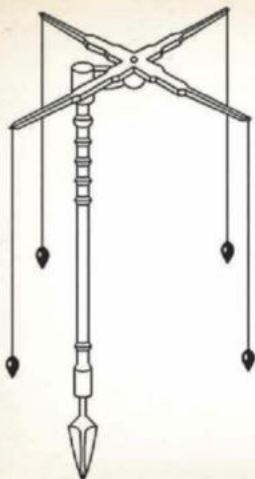
LABOUR

Building aqueducts was a costly and laborious process. As such, many of the workmen would have been slaves.

The Acqua Virgine, one of Rome's oldest water channels, runs almost entirely underground except for the final 1,835 metres

ANCIENT SURVEYORS

The *groma* was a surveying instrument used by Romans to trace straight lines and right-angles for building projects. The sharp-ended pole was planted into the ground and the hanging plumb lines were used to verify parallelism with another point further away.




GOING UNDERGROUND

The spectacular bridge structures that we have come to associate with aqueducts were in fact just a minor part of a much bigger system, the majority of which ran underground. It was only when the tunnels channelling the water reached a valley that these arches were required. Rome, for example, was supplied by 315 miles of aqueducts – only 46 miles were above ground.

WE ATE WHAT?!

COCHLEAS

 A favourite Ancient Roman dish, snails 'fed' on milk needed a few days to prepare. The chef would clean each mollusc with a sponge, then remove the membrane around the jelly bit so they'd pop out of their shells. On the first day, they'd be put in a vessel with milk and salt, then for several days in milk alone so the bodies would swell. Some poor assistant would be charged with cleaning out the excrement every hour.

At the point where the snails were so fat they wouldn't fit back into their shells, they were fried in olive oil and served up with *oenogarum*, the classic fish sauce, flavoured with wine. **SL**




6

The number of Stuart monarchs of Great Britain and Ireland: James I and II, Charles I and II, Mary II and Anne.

THE YOUNG PRETENDER

Bonnie Prince Charlie tried to take back the British throne for his dynasty – but failed

Did the Stuarts ever give up their claim to the throne?


 After the death of James II in 1700, the Stuart claim passed to his son 'James III', and grandson, Charles Edward Stuart – 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'. Their Jacobite risings ended in failure, and after his defeat at Culloden, Charles returned to the Continent, where he quickly sank into drunken apathy and a disastrous and abusive marriage. He declared himself 'Charles III' on his father's death in 1766, and hoped, in vain, that the American War of Independence might provide him with an opening for a comeback. He had even renounced his Catholicism and joined the Church of England,

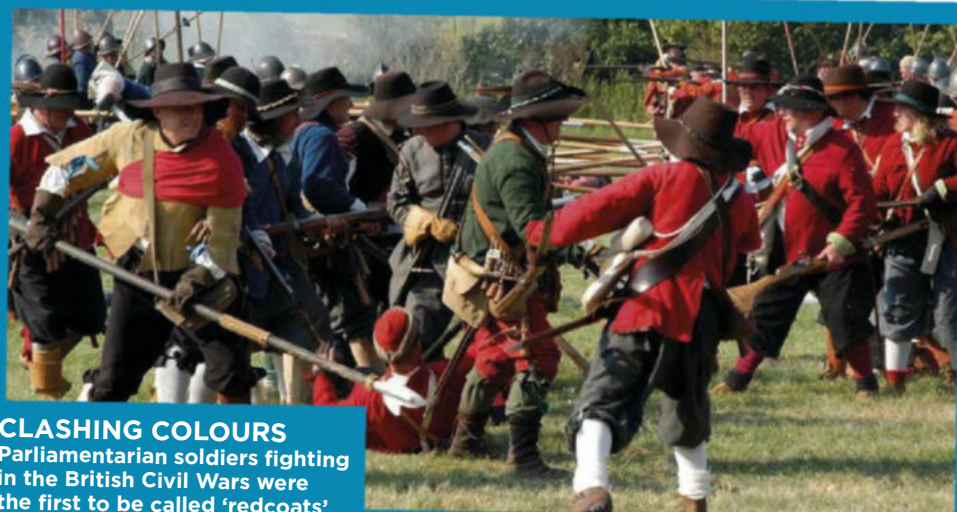
which caused a deep split with his brother Henry, a devout Catholic and a cardinal of the Church.

When Charles died in 1788, Henry inherited the claim to the throne as 'Henry IX', but he lost all his money in the French Revolution and was bailed out by, of all people, the Hanoverian King George III. Napoleon toyed with the idea of using a Jacobite claimant against Britain, but neither Charles nor Henry left any heirs. The Stuart line grew more remote, passing through Italian, Czech and Bavarian royalty, none of whom asserted their claim, though the more fanatical Jacobites did – and still do. **RM**

MYTH BUSTING

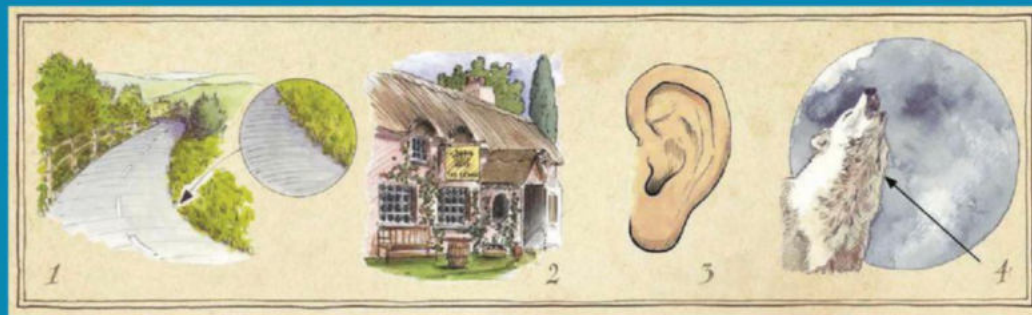
Why did British soldiers wear red?

 Not so that their coats wouldn't show the blood. When Parliament was kitting out its New Model Army in 1645, it chose that colour because red dye was the cheapest on the market. When the monarchy was restored in 1660, the Crown stuck with red for the same reason – it was the most economical option. **JH**



CLASHING COLOURS
Parliamentarian soldiers fighting in the British Civil Wars were the first to be called 'redcoats'

This 20th-century lady dallied away her time writing modernist novels



What is the most unusual sport to be included in an **Olympic programme?**



GAME CHANGER
The founder of the modern Games, Baron de Coubertin, introduced art as a sport



Arguably the most unusual element of any summer Olympic Games programme was sport-related art, defined by the categories of painting, sculpture, literature, music and architecture. Baron de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Games, believed that intellectual development was as important as athletic endeavour, and had himself won gold for literature in the 1912 games. As a spectator sport, however, painting and architecture never worked and, since medals were last awarded in 1948, the Olympic movement has preferred to focus upon more clearly defined sports, such as athletics, cycling and swimming, keeping art in parallel exhibition, rather than integral competition. MR



LENGTHY CAREER
Smoot recreates the moment on the bridge almost 50 years later



What is a **smoot**?



Oliver Smoot measures five feet seven inches in height. In 1958, Smoot's freshman year at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he lent his name to a tongue-in-cheek unit of measurement. A group of MIT students wanted to measure the length of the Harvard Bridge, and Smoot was chosen because he was the shortest member of the team. He laid down, end over end, while his colleagues painted the units onto the side of the bridge.

Perhaps it was his unique contribution to the science of measurement that led Oliver Smoot to become president of the Organization for Standardization and, for many years, serve as chairman of the American National Standards Institute. The smoot remains a 'valid' unit of measurement, it's one of the options available on Google Earth, and the markings on the bridge are repainted every year. For the record, Harvard Bridge measures precisely 364.4 smoots and one ear. SL

DID YOU KNOW?
SPECIAL MEASURES
Another bizarre unit of measurement is the beard-second, defined by the length facial hair grows in one second - approximately five nanometres.

SEE ANSWERS BELOW

WHAT IS IT?

THIS TOOL WAS USED IN AN ANCIENT FUNERARY RITUAL, BUT WHAT DID IT DO?



NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Want to know more about your favourite historical monarch, or uncover the origin of a peculiar saying? Get in touch!

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Answers: Hidden Historicals
Verge Inn
Ear Wolf (Virginia Woolf) What is it?
An Ancient Egyptian tool used in the Opening of the Mouth ceremony, which allowed the dead to speak in the afterlife.

Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p86 • BOOKS p88

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

EXHIBITION

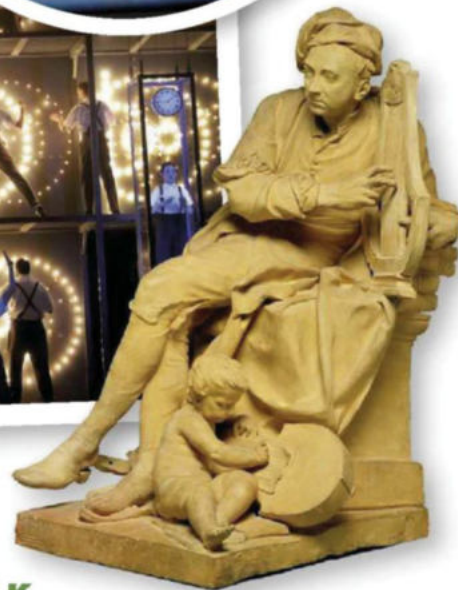
Opera: Power, Passion and Politics

Until 25 February 2018, V&A Museum, London
www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/opera

In partnership with the Royal Opera House, the V&A is playing host to a sumptuous exhibition on the history of opera. Traced through seven premieres across seven European cities, this exhibition reveals how this dramatic art form has often mirrored the world of political events and power-crazed ambition.



TOP: **Salome** in Strauss's opera of the same name
ABOVE: **A scene from Einstein on the Beach** RIGHT: **A marble statue of the composer Handel**



TALK

The Great Severn Flood of 1607

18 November 2017, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea www.bit.ly/2uCCO39

In 1607, the southern coast of Wales and much of Devon and Somerset were devastated by a freak tsunami, widely interpreted at the time as a sign of divine judgement. Dr Mark Lewis presents a lecture about this little-known natural disaster.



TALK

Lucy Worsley's Favourite Queen

3 November 2017, The Courthouse, Hillsborough, Northern Ireland
www.bit.ly/2fElldo

Historian Lucy Worsley gives a moving talk on the tragic life of Queen Caroline, consort to King George II. Learn about the dark secrets of the Georgian court, a true royal romance, and the role she played in influencing modern society.





EVENT

York History Weekend

24-26 November 2017, York
www.historyweekend.com/york

BBC History Magazine's History Weekend in York is back, with over 25 speakers gracing the stages at Yorkshire Museum and the 14th-century Hospitium. You'll also have a chance to get your books signed and browse the latest releases from Waterstones.

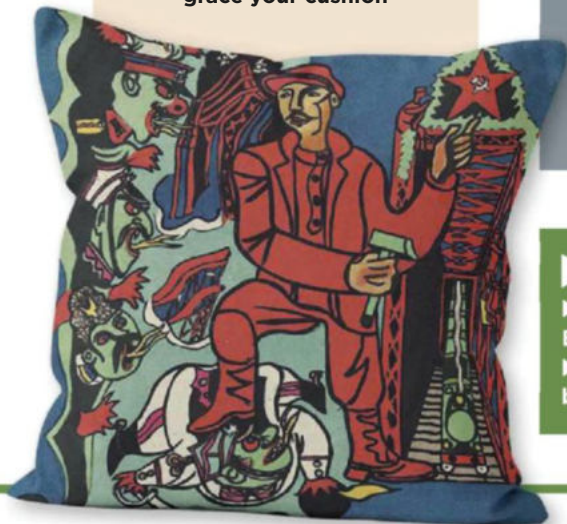
TO BUY

Russian Revolution Poster Cushion

www.bit.ly/2gZpcZE

What better way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution than with a revolutionary poster cushion? Produced in conjunction with the Tate gallery, these designs reflect how events within the Soviet Union influenced art and design.

Choose one of 12 poster designs to grace your cushion



Domhnall Gleeson, of *The Revenant* and *Harry Potter* fame, stars as Milne alongside Margot Robbie



FILM

Goodbye Christopher Robin

In cinemas 29 September (UK)/13 October (USA)
www.imdb.com/title/tt1653665

This brand-new blockbuster will reveal the touching tale of how Winnie the Pooh came to be loved by millions. Traumatized by his experiences in World War I, playwright and

author A A Milne seeks to reveal the horrors of war to the world, but in travelling to a rural retreat, he finds a new lease of life creating woodland tales for his young son.

EXHIBITION

Women and the Royal Navy

Ends 31 December 2017, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Hampshire
www.bit.ly/2vxpTOy

This exhibition highlights the female pioneers who embarked on a life at sea by joining the Royal Navy. Beginning with the 17th century, and proceeding into the world wars and beyond, discover how one of Britain's most celebrated armed services adjusted to new social realities and demands.



Members of the Women's Royal Navy Service, known as 'Wrens', during WWII

► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- The History of the Workhouse in 20 Objects - Get to grips with Victorian artefacts. Ends 5 November 2017, The Workhouse, Nottinghamshire www.bit.ly/2wJaPfY
- Clementine Churchill: Speaking for herself - Discover the woman so often eclipsed by her husband's fame. Begins 18 November, Chartwell, Kent www.bit.ly/2wISgYV

THE MUMMY OF
EXHIBITIONS

The **Ancient Egyptian collection** will always be the most popular, and for good reason, but that is only one of the cultures of the world that can be explored here.

JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

With ancient civilisations on the ground floor and the 19th century on level three, visitors can travel through ten millennia of human history by walking up the museum



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Oxford

Spend a day in the Ashmolean in Oxford and you'll be transported in space and time, exploring civilisations across the world over 10,000 years of history

GETTING THERE:

The Ashmolean is on Beaumont Street in Oxford city centre, so is easily reached by public transport. The best option for parking is St Giles', but there are also Park and Rides.



TIMES AND PRICES:

Open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday (closed Mondays, apart from bank holidays), free admission.

FIND OUT MORE:

Call 01865 278000 or visit www.ashmolean.org

When Elias Ashmole gifted the University of Oxford his sprawling collections of manuscripts, geological and zoological specimens and assorted curios, they came with a stipulation: a suitable home had to be built and be available to the public. His wish was obliged, and the Ashmolean duly opened its doors on 24 May 1683, making it the world's inaugural university museum.

The Ashmolean would add so many treasures over the centuries that it had to move to a grander

location a few roads away. It remains there today as one of the foremost museums in Britain – open (and free) to everyone, just as Ashmole wanted.

Although he enjoyed collecting antiquities himself, much of what Ashmole donated actually belonged to a father-son pair of antiquarians initially. John Tradescant the Elder and Younger accumulated a trove of ancient coins, books and engravings, as well as the weird and wonderful. As botanists – both served as head gardeners to Charles I – they held

a particular fascination for exotic plants, but also possessed a zoo's worth of stuffed animals (the highlight being the last dodo seen in Europe), the lantern used by Guy Fawkes, Henry VIII's hawking glove and the 'robe of the King of Virginia' (Powhatan's mantle).

The Tradescant collection had been displayed for years at their Lambeth house, a cabinet of curiosities named 'The Ark'. When John the Younger died with no children, though, it all went to Ashmole, who had helped catalogue every item. He then



The museum's extensive collection of funerary items includes a set of Theban coffins

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



1 ALFRED JEWEL

This exquisite example of Anglo-Saxon goldsmith work, complete with a teardrop-shaped piece of quartz, comes from the reign of Alfred the Great.



2 POWHATAN'S MANTLE

This deer-hide cloak was part of the original Ashmolean collection in 1683. It is thought to have belonged to Native American chief Powhatan, father of Pocahontas.



3 MESSIAH STRADIVARIUS

Do not miss one of the world's most beloved instruments. The violin from master crafter of string instruments Antonio Stradivari is in almost perfect condition.



4 SHRINE OF TAHARQA

With 50,000 artefacts, the Ancient Egypt collections are some of the most impressive outside Cairo. A highlight is this 7th-century-BC freestanding shrine.



5 ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

Ideal for a well-earned pause in your museum exploring – whether for a coffee or a meal. Make the most of the outdoor terrace overlooking Oxford's many spires.



6 ACTIVITY TRAILS

As well as events throughout the year, free trails such as 'Heroes of Ancient Greece', 'Rabbit Hop and Seek' and 'Bug Safari' make the Ashmolean very family-friendly.

"It remains one of the foremost museums in Britain"

chose to donate it to Oxford, having a long connection to the university – going back to the 1640s, when he studied there during the Civil War.

Transporting everything to the Ashmolean building on Broad Street supposedly required 12 wagons, but would have required even more if he had not lost a lot of his own collection in a fire. He then missed the opening due to poor health, but Ashmole had succeeded in establishing a public museum, under the keepership of naturalist Dr Robert Plot.

CHANGING TACK

The 18th century saw both new additions for the Ashmolean – including materials from Captain Cook's second voyage

– and the deterioration of some of the original items. The dodo decayed so much that it had to be destroyed. The natural history specimens then stopped being a feature entirely when a new museum opened in Oxford in the mid-19th century, leading the Ashmolean to change its focus to the field of archaeology.

This intensified when Arthur Evans became keeper in 1884. As he was the man who uncovered the Palace of Knossos on Crete (the fabled location of the Minotaur and the labyrinth), he brought in an impressive collection of Minoan pottery. In fact, he made so many archaeological acquisitions from around the world (an average of 2,000 a year) that the museum needed more room.

The Ashmolean's artefacts were moved to a neo-classical building, which they would share with the university galleries: drawings by Raphael and Michelangelo, along with Turner watercolours. In 1908, the two institutions combined into the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology.

Today, it is easy to marvel both at the Ashmolean's treasures and the thought-provoking ways they are displayed, which have been improved by major redevelopments since 2000. For those who may find the sheer volume of things to see a little overwhelming, there are a number of free tours throughout the day, but you'll need to spend much longer here to fully enjoy this wonderful museum. 📍

WHY NOT VISIT...

Oxford has so much to offer, and all within walking distance

ST MICHAEL AT THE NORTH GATE

The 1,000-year-old Saxon tower offers panoramic views of the city – and on the way up, you can see the old oak door from Thomas Cranmer's prison cell. www.smng.org.uk

MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Housed in the original Ashmolean building, highlights include the blackboard, still covered in equations, used by Albert Einstein in 1931. www.mhs.ox.ac.uk

OXFORD CASTLE

The guided tour takes you down into the chapel crypt, through the prison wing and up the motte-and-bailey castle mound. www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

This month's best historical books

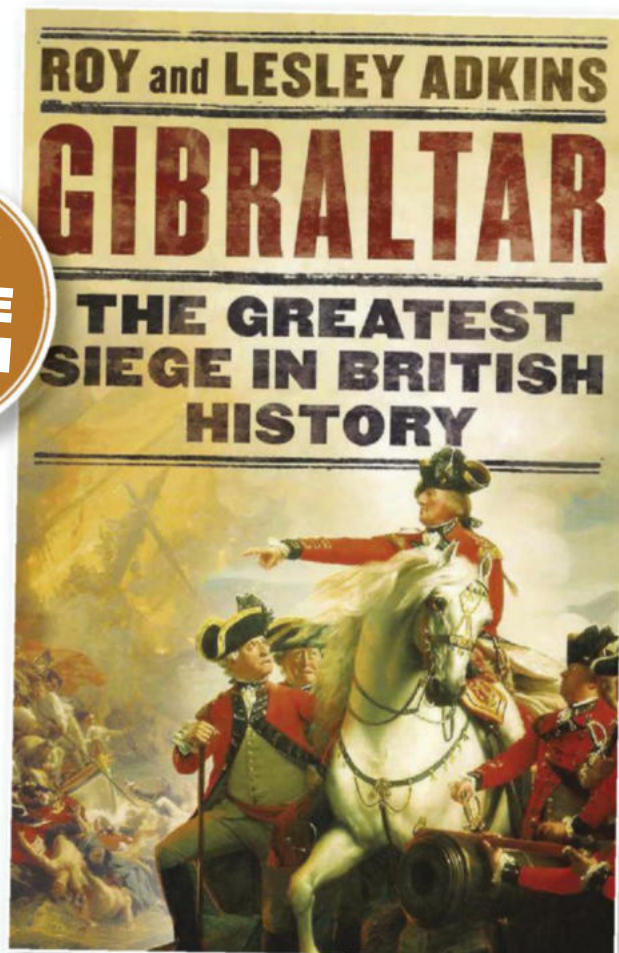
Gibraltar: The Greatest Siege in British History

By Roy and Lesley Adkins

Little, Brown, £20, hardback, 480 pages

Daring sea battles, flaming shipwrecks and an attempted invasion of England: all feature in this spirited retelling of the late-18th-century Siege of Gibraltar, the longest in British history. The tiny territory, just off the Iberian Peninsula, somehow became a key battleground as France and Spain attempted to join forces and defeat Britain in the ongoing American War of Independence – recapturing land they regarded as rightfully theirs as they did so. Besieged for more than three-and-a-half years, British forces and ordinary people on 'the Rock' endured starvation and disease, and Roy and Lesley Adkins' account never loses sight of the human story at the heart of an extraordinary international incident.

BOOK
OF THE
MONTH



“If France and Spain had not become entangled in this conflict, the outcome would have been very different”



ABOVE: A 1738 map of Gibraltar showing the fortifications between Gibraltar and Spain RIGHT: British officers watch the French-Spanish floating batteries burn



MEET THE AUTHOR

Husband-and-wife historians **Roy and Lesley Adkins** explain the huge impact that this small territory had on the course of history

What happened in the Siege of Gibraltar, and why was it important?

After siding with the rebel American colonies during the American War of Independence, France persuaded Spain to join forces in return for assistance in regaining Gibraltar from the British. The Great Siege began in 1779, and Spanish warships tried to cut off supplies, but this sea blockade was never effective: three convoys arrived from Britain with provisions and ammunition, while smaller vessels from far and wide brought in food. Spain hoped Gibraltar would quickly surrender through starvation and disease, but the siege actually lasted more than three-and-a-half years – Britain's longest-ever siege.

Gibraltar was a fortified promontory linked to Spain by a low-lying sandy strip of land over which the Spaniards extended their fortifications. They also tried other ways of taking the Rock, from massive bombardments to fireships, gunboats and a French-Spanish assault using immense floating batteries. It was said that if Britain had given up Gibraltar, the American colonies might have been retained. More troops could have been deployed in America, and Spain may even have joined a British alliance. In 1781, Royal Navy warships were withdrawn from Brest to escort Gibraltar's second convoy, which allowed the French fleet to slip across the Atlantic. This proved a deciding factor in the surrender of Yorktown.

What was the experience like for people living in Gibraltar?

The soldiers had rations, but civilians had to buy everything and were faced with rising costs and a shortage of food and fuel. The thundering noise of the guns pounding

the Spanish positions was terrifying, coupled with constant disquiet about the impending Spanish retaliation. Months later, the Spanish guns were unleashed in a spectacular bombardment lasting many weeks. The town was destroyed, and at night gunboats terrorised the temporary encampments. Ever more civilians decided to leave after enduring starvation, disease and untold injuries.

What new technologies or techniques were used in this conflict?

The siege was a battle between the artillerymen and engineers on both sides, with never-ending improvement and innovation in their methods of killing. A shell was devised to explode in the air, rather than after hitting the ground, showering the Spanish working parties with lethal metal splinters – called shrapnel in later wars. A depressing gun carriage was invented, enabling a cannon to be fired downwards from high on the Rock. The first tunnels were mined, with the air vents

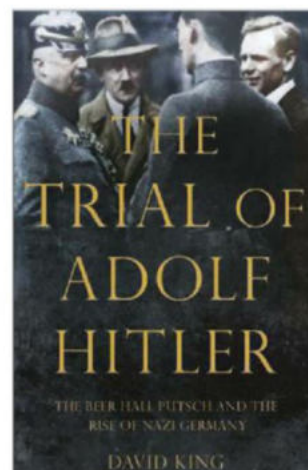
providing perfect gun emplacements. The main invention was by a French engineer who designed a fleet of heavily armoured floating batteries. They were overwhelmed by the simple technique of red-hot shot – heated cannonballs, which had never before been used on such a massive scale.

What new impression of this episode of history, and its implications, would you like readers to leave your book with?

The siege needs to be considered as an integral part of the American War of Independence – a story of tragedy, humanity, bravery, ingenuity and the folly of politicians and rulers.



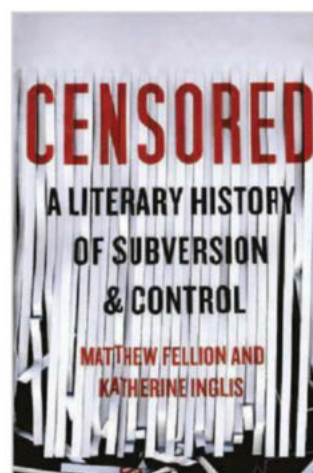
“This proved a deciding factor in the surrender of Yorktown”



The Trial of Adolf Hitler By David King

Macmillan, £25, hardback, 480 pages

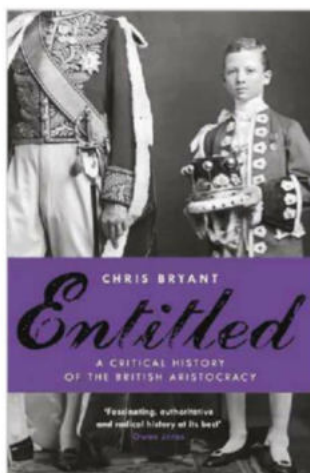
How did Adolf Hitler gain enough power to lead Germany? Key to the story is the Beer Hall Putsch, 1923's botched attempt to seize control of Munich. Arrested and charged with treason, it seemed a crushing failure – yet the publicity granted him a much larger audience. This sobering book reveals what happened, what went wrong, and how it paved the way for the cataclysms that were to follow.



Censored

By Matthew Fellion and Katherine Inglis
British Library Publishing, £25, hardback, 416 pages

Pornography! Blasphemy! Swearing! All those things – and much more – feature in this exploration of banned books, those doing the banning, and the reasons behind their opprobrium. Of course, it's not all a risqué romp: many of the works featured here were censored because of political control or religious tension.

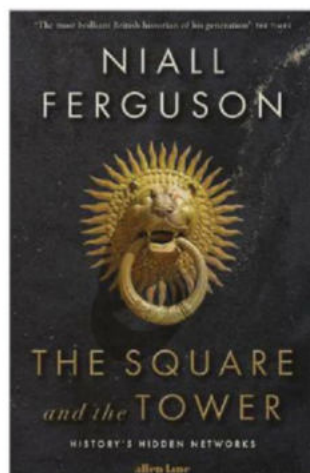


Entitled

By Chris Bryant

Doubleday, £25, hardback, 448 pages

There's one key word in the sub-title of this new study of Britain's ruling classes, and that's 'critical'. From greed and jealousy to a desperate desire to hold on to power, many of the book's subjects do not emerge covered in glory. Yet there are plenty of larger-than-life characters here, too, and it remains a vivid look back at many centuries of aristocratic history.

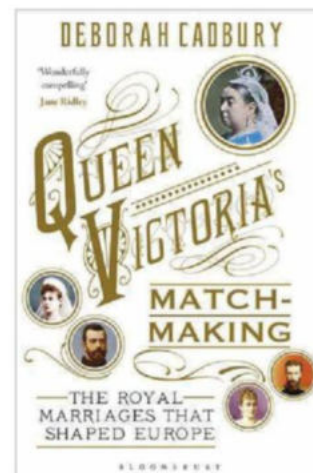


The Square and the Tower

By Niall Ferguson

Allen Lane, £25, hardback, 608 pages

When we talk about social networks in the 21st century, we often mean online. Yet, as Niall Ferguson argues in this engaging, opinionated book, considering the whole sweep of history in terms of 'networks' – those of printers, guilds and preachers – may help us better understand both the past and the present.

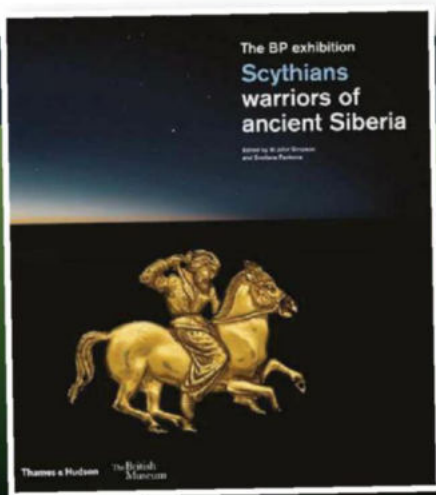


Queen Victoria's Matchmaking

By Deborah Cadbury

Bloomsbury, £25, hardback, 400 pages

Queen Victoria is enjoying something of a cultural moment, and this book looks at her role as dynastic matchmaker. With more than 30 grandchildren and royalty from around Europe for the choosing, there was plenty of opportunity – yet not everyone appreciated her meddling, and war, revolution and scandal lay in wait.



Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia

Edited by St John Simpson and Svetlana Pankova

Thames & Hudson, £40, hardback, 368 pages

Thousands of years ago, what is now Siberia and Russia was home to the Scythian people: horse-riding warriors, wandering nomads and skilled craftsmen. They produced no written records but, luckily, their artefacts remain; preserved deep beneath the area's permafrost, they offer extraordinary insights into a vanished culture. This book, published to coincide with a new exhibition at the British Museum in London, features some of the best.

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH

The clean and classy design ensures the focus stays on the intricate metalwork and art of the era



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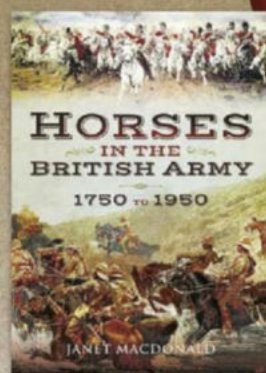
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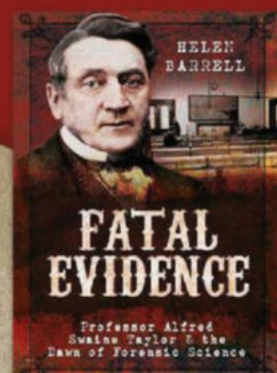
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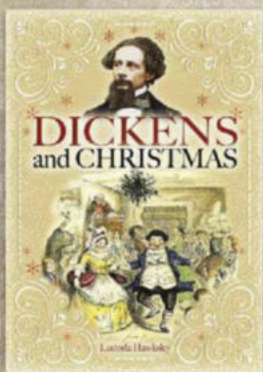
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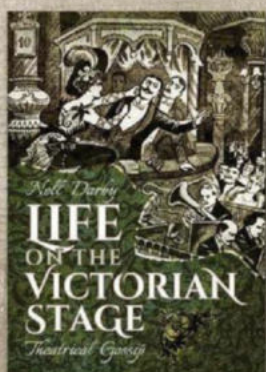
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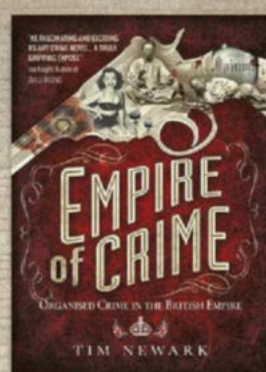
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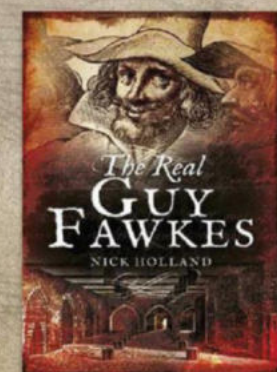
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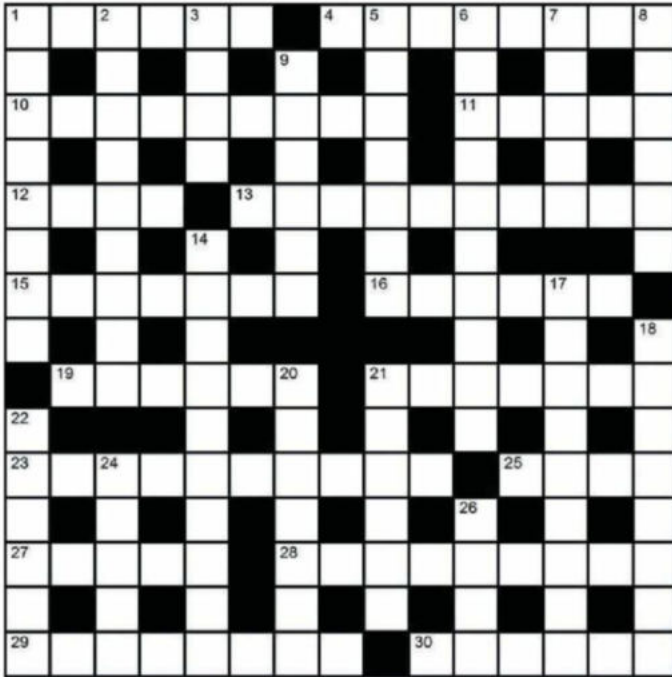


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ACROSS

- 1** Coastal city in the north of Italy, established by the Romans in 268 BC (6)
4 *The Flying* ____, record-breaking steam locomotive built in 1923 (8)
10 Branch of Protestantism founded in the 1500s (9)
11 James ____ (1860–1949), Belgian painter and printmaker (5)
12 Valerie ____ (b.1954), politician and peer, the first black woman to serve in a UK Cabinet (4)
13 1897 play by Anton Chekhov (5,5)
15 Gerald ____ (1925–95), British naturalist, writer and zookeeper (7)

- 16** Traditional rural roofing material (6)
19 Descriptive of a medieval system of land and labour (6)
21 The ____ Castle, eighth-century fortification in Gibraltar (7)
23 Official means of execution in France from 1791 to 1981 (10)
25 Asian language formerly known as Siamese (4)
27 In classical European literature, a location in the far north (5)
28 Franklin D ____ (1882–1945), 32nd President of the USA (9)
29 In Greek myth, the daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta (8)
30 Heroic collie portrayed by 'Pal' in a 1943 MGM film (6)

DOWN

- 1** Sir Viv ____ (b.1952), Antiguan cricketer known as 'The Master Blaster' (8)
2 Lord ____, title held by Prime Minister William Lamb (1779–1848) (9)
3 Film ____, style of film-making noted for low-key visuals and a hard-boiled ethos, popular in the 1940s (4)
5 Legendary court of King Arthur (7)
6 Academy Award-winning 2004 biopic of Howard Hughes (3,7)
7 James ____ (1909–84), Yorkshire-born film actor (5)
8 William the Conqueror, for example (6)
9 Traditional women's dress of Austria, South Tyrol and Bavaria (6)
14 German university city, severely damaged by French invasions in the late 1600s (10)
17 Historic county in the far north of mainland Scotland (9)
18 See 22
20 ____ Treaty, 1929 pact signed by Benito Mussolini and Pope Pius XI (7)
21 ____ Doctrine, US foreign policy principle adopted in the 1820s (6)
22/18 Devon-born crime writer (1890–1976) (6,8)
24 Indigenous people of Arctic Alaska, Canada and Greenland (5)
26 In Greek myth, a princess seduced by Zeus in the form of a swan (4)

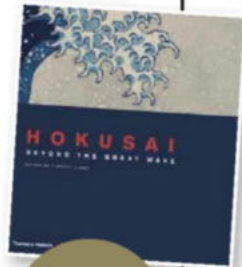
CHANCE TO WIN

Hokusai: Beyond the Great Wave

Edited by Timothy Clark
 Most famous for his *Great Wave*, Japanese artist Hokusai continued to create sublime work right up until his death at age 90. This book draws on the finest collections from his late career. Published by Thames & Hudson, £35.

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, November 2017 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **november2017@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 December 2017**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.



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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited

Writing – A Job with All Sorts of Opportunities for All Kinds of People

by Phil Busby

Do you fancy a challenge? What about the chance to make some money, get VIP access to major sporting and cultural events, or free holidays abroad? How would you like to look in the mirror and say, "Yeah – I did it!"

Well then, writing might be just up your street.

People have some funny ideas about writing. As a profession, it's not just for 'special' folk.

Anyone can do it. If you love words, and stories, and you're not afraid of hard work, that's all you need.

For the last 26 years The Writers Bureau has been helping new writers get started in the business. Writers like Louise Kennedy, who struck gold when she started blogging about her life on a boat from the viewpoint of ... her cat. Baily Boat Cat was picked up by a major publisher and

"My tutor was lovely, encouraging and offered me great constructive criticism."

turned into a book which now sells world wide. "The Writers Bureau has given me the confidence to follow my dreams," Louise says. "My tutor was lovely, encouraging and offered me great constructive criticism."

Another WB student, Martin Read, wanted to keep active in his retirement and his writing led to a great little bonus. "As a result of my cricket articles, I have been elected into The Cricket Writers Club – an organisation that counts experienced journalists among its members. One of the perks of this membership is a press card that gives me entry into all of England's cricket stadium press boxes." And there are not many that get in there.

Then there's Jacqueline Jaynes, who just loves to travel: "The Writers Bureau course has done everything I hoped it would and more. There was a clear progression through chapters so that my writing skills and confidence grew steadily with feedback from my tutor. The market research



Louise Kennedy



Jacqueline Jaynes



Martin Read

activities were invaluable for opening up potential new avenues for publication."

Those new avenues led to a travel website where Jacqueline started writing short articles. Soon she was asked to join the team, and now she and her husband get expenses paid trips all over the world in exchange for reviews!

These are just some of the many inspirational true stories from Writers Bureau students. And there's no reason why you shouldn't join them. Who knows, this time next year I could be writing about your success. With a 15-day trial and money back guarantee, there's nothing to lose and potentially a whole new life to gain. So why not visit the website at www.writersbureau.com or call Freephone 0800 856 2008 for more information?

Why Not Be A Writer?

As a freelance writer, you can earn very good money in your spare time, writing the stories, articles, books, scripts etc that editors and publishers want. Millions of pounds are paid annually in fees and royalties. Earning your share can be fun, profitable and creatively most fulfilling.

To help you become a successful writer we offer you a first-class, home-study course from professional writers – with individual guidance from expert tutors and flexible tuition tailored to your own requirements. You are shown how to make the most of your abilities, where to find ideas, how to turn them into publishable writing and how to sell them. In short, we show you exactly how to become a published writer. **If you want writing success – this is the way to start!**

Whatever your writing ambitions, we can help you to achieve them. For we give you an effective,

stimulating and most enjoyable creative writing course... appreciated by students and acclaimed by experts.

It's ideal for beginners. No previous experience or special background is required. You write and study at your own pace – you do not have to rush. **Many others have been successful this way.** If they can do it – why can't you?

We are so confident that we can help you become a published writer that we give you a **full refund guarantee**. If you have not earned your course fees from published writing by the time you finish the course, we will refund them in full.

If you want to be a writer start by requesting a free copy of our prospectus 'Write and be Published'. Please call our freephone number or visit our website NOW!



Sarah Plater "I'm currently working on my fourth book, have been paid for my writing by at least 15 different magazines, and now earn half my income from writing – all thanks to The Writers Bureau's course."



Walter Dinjos "I enrolled in The Writers Bureau's Creative Writing course in the hope of building my confidence as a writer and ending my cycle of publishing failures. I currently work as a content writer with a writing agency and have even won an international writing competition."



Steph Thompson "If you listen to the tutors and take time to read the material you can be a working writer, it really is an excellent course. I've found part-time work as a freelance writer for Academic Knowledge. I've earned just under £2000 in the past year."

YES! Please send me free details on how to become, a successful freelance writer.

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Why the Roundheads and Cavaliers
weren't so different after all...

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MURDER, INC: THE MAFIA'S DEADLY CREW
CHURCHILL'S FAVOURITE SPY BELZONI: CIRCUS
ACT TURNED TOMB RAIDER PHOTOS THAT
CHANGED THE WORLD **ISABELLA OF CASTILE**
FASHIONS THAT KILLED **AND MUCH MORE...**

ALAMY

HISTORY
REVEALED Bringing the past to life

READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

A CROSS MARKS THE SPOT

I enjoyed reading Julian Humphrys' article about the Battle of Brunanburh (Battlefield, September 2017). After a good summary of the debate over the battlefield's elusive location, he concludes that "unless... there's a stunning archaeological find, the debate will rumble on".

You may be interested to hear that there probably does exist a stunning archaeological artefact relating to this battle, namely the Nunburnholme Cross in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

"There probably does exist a stunning archaeological artefact relating to this battle"

One panel of this late-Anglo-Saxon cross portrays the hand of God pointing to the pommel of a sword, prominently carried by a haloed warrior (see picture, above right). This is thought to commemorate a famous miracle, recounted by Eadmer of Canterbury and William of Malmesbury, in which King Athelstan's sword was miraculously restored to him during the battle.

This theory is reinforced by the fact that the village of Nunburnholme has a strong claim to being near the site of the battlefield. Nunburnholme, which was called 'Brunham' in Anglo-Saxon times, lies halfway between York and Beverley, and 25 kilometres from the Humber, all places that were associated with the battle in medieval texts.

Dingesmere, the other 'lost' placename from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle's* account, probably refers to the River Foulness, which rises five kilometres south of Nunburnholme. Dingesmere and Foulness both meant 'filthy water' in Anglo-Saxon. The only likely connection between Brunanburh and the Wirral is that Ness on the Wirral peninsula could be the 'Jarlsness', from whence Earl



LETTER OF THE MONTH

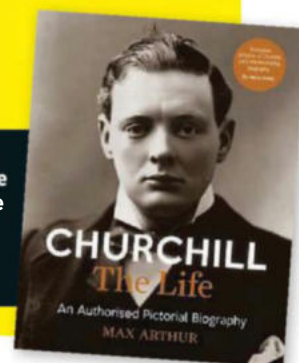
MYSTERY REVEALED Could this carving in a Yorkshire church hold the key to the Battle of Brunanburh's location?

Alfgeir escaped prior to the battle (see the Norse *Orkneyinga Saga*). You can read more about this theory in the Council for British Archaeology's magazine, *British Archaeology* (Volume 2, 2013). Thank you very much for your interesting magazine.
S A England, Munich

JULIAN HUMPHRYS REPLIES: I'm glad you liked the article. This is an interesting theory, but of course I would like it because (if true) it supports my opinion on where the battle was fought!

Shortly after submitting the piece, I went to Michael Woods' talk about the battle and its location at the Chalk Valley History Festival. Although he elaborated on all the issues and arguments and came down strongly in favour of the Yorkshire site, he made no reference to the cross as a piece of evidence. But I'm due to contact him shortly and I'll ask him what he thinks!

Our reader wins a copy of *Churchill: The Life* by Max Arthur. Featuring an incredible set of unique images, the author really gets to the heart of the war leader's character, detailing how not only his political and military experiences shaped him, but his personal and private life too.



JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

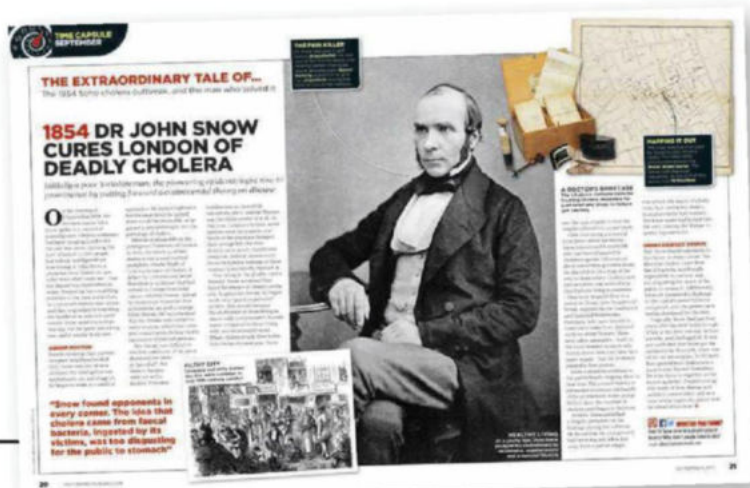
Always look forward to receiving my *History Revealed* magazine. I read the article regarding Dr John Snow and his solving of the cholera outbreak in London

YOU KNOW NOTHING, JOHN SNOW
This Victorian doctor's theory on cholera was initially ignored

(*Extraordinary Tale*, September 2017). Anyone wishing further reading on the subject may enjoy a good book by Steven Johnson called *The Ghost Map*.
Jim Grounds, Toronto

POKÉMON NO

Before I place an order for a yearly subscription for my daughter, who introduced me to your magazine, I would like



f Fabulous magazine – obviously for those interested in history :-). Lots of little facts as well as bigger stories. Ann Roberts

to say a huge thank you to everyone who is a part of this publication. I literally cannot put this month's issue (September 2017) down, as my husband keeps re-reading the piece about the Vietnam War, and my eldest son (who is a bit of a Tudor nut) fights his dad and little brother – who has not mentioned Pokémon since he opened your magazine, so thank you again – for a turn to read the articles. There truly is something for everyone, the pictures make one look, and the articles make one think. What a glorious thing. A massive well done to everyone who is involved.
Mrs Ford, Reading

RECONNECTED

I write to thank you for your excellent magazine. I purchased the May issue, having missed my bus connection in Edinburgh. It is a fascinating read and took away my annoyance with a changed timetable. In particular, I was interested in a mention of privateer Kenelm Digby in *Readers' Letters*, as he is one of my ancestors.

Charles Pfeil, Kirkcaldy

AUS-SOME READ

As an Australian, I didn't like history at school. Most of it was shallow, and learning dates seemed to be the most important thing. Oh, how I



WHAT WERE THEY FIGHTING FOR?

Jonny Wilkes' piece on the controversial Vietnam War was a favourite among many of our readers

wish I'd had a source such as *History Revealed*. I now love it! I did notice some articles on Australia. I hope further articles can interest readers in this wonderful land. The drive for exploration, and the ingenuity and invention of Aussies in a brutal land, is fascinating. The attacks of the Japanese Army on Darwin, and the fighting of Aussie soldiers in Papua New Guinea and Singapore should prove revealing.

Graeme Gee, Suffolk

BESIDE THE SEASIDE

I loved the feature on the Victorian seaside holiday (August 2017). I definitely don't think the English coast is losing its charm.

I am a frequent visitor to Scarborough and Filey. I've gone on holiday there every year of my life and it's still as magical as always. Plus, there are lots of wonderful historic properties to visit nearby. Looking forward to the next issue.

Amy Appleby, via Facebook

My copy arrived this morning... can't wait to sit down with it later!
@batgirl80

CORRECTIONS

- In October's 'I Read the News Today', we mistakenly wrote that Horatio Nelson died on 21 October 1905. It was, of course, 1805.
- In a similar vein, in 'Rome's Most Wanted' (October 2017) we said that Katharina von Bora first wrote to Martin Luther in 1923 – it was in fact 1523. We are clearly preoccupied with the 20th century!

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 46 are:
G Derbyshire, Lancashire
David Armstrong, Cheshire
A Roberts, Herefordshire

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *Koh-i-Noor* by William Dalrymple and Anita Anand. It explores the history of the infamous diamond, from its bloody origins to its place in the crown jewels.



TOP-KOALATY ARTICLES
Readers Down Under are pleased to see Australian history features too

HISTORY REVEALED

Bringing the past to life

EDITORIAL

Editor Paul McGuinness
paul.mcguinness@historyrevealed.com
Production Editor Alicea Francis
alicea.francis@historyrevealed.com
Staff Writer Alice Barnes-Brown
alice.barnes-brown@historyrevealed.com

ART

Art Editor Sheu-Kuei Ho
Picture Editor Rosie McPherson
Illustrators Jonty Clark, Esther Curtis, Sue Gent, Jean-Michel Girard, Chris Stocker

CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS

Emily Brand, Lottie Goldfinch, Julian Humphrys, Pat Kinsella, Sandra Lawrence, Rupert Matthews, Gavin Mortimer, Gordon O'Sullivan, Miles Russell, Mel Sherwood, Mark Simner, Richard Smyth, Jonny Wilkes

PRESS & PR

Communications Manager
Dominic Lobley 020 7150 5015
dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager Helen Seymour

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Group Advertising Manager
Tom Drew tom.drew@immediate.co.uk

Advertisement Manager

Sam Jones 0117 314 8847
sam.jones@immediate.co.uk

Brand Sales Executive

Sam Evanson 0117 314 8754
sam.evanson@immediate.co.uk

Subscriptions Director

Jacky Perales-Morris
Subscriptions Marketing Manager
Natalie Lawrence

PRODUCTION

Production Director Sarah Powell
Production Co-ordinator
Emily Mounter

Ad Co-ordinator

Jade O'Halloran
Ad Designer Rachel Shircore
Reprographics Rob Fletcher,
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Or post:

Have Your Say, *History Revealed*,
Immediate Media, Tower House,
Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES

Phone: 03330 162 116
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RUM-RUNNING GOES WRONG

A pair of Mexican smugglers try to run rum across the Rio Grande under their coats. Unsurprisingly – given the suspicious bulk on their backs – they are caught. During Prohibition, 1920-33, the manufacture and sale of alcohol was banned in the United States, but people still wanted a drink. Organised crime, speakeasies and more sophisticated forms of bootlegging became rampant.



GETTY



Private John Parr grave at St Symphorien Cemetery



St Symphorien Military Cemetery



Private Ellison grave at St Symphorien Cemetery

MONS: THE FIRST AND THE LAST COMMEMORATIONS NOVEMBER 2018

Saint-Symphorien Military Cemetery

On the outskirts of the Belgian city of Mons, one of the most unusual and beautiful military cemeteries of WW1 welcomes visitors from all over the world, some of them anonymous, some of them famous, but always full of respect and gratitude.

Nearly facing each other, two gravestones recall the names of the First and the Last British soldiers killed on the Western front during WW1: Private John Parr, who was still a teenager and Private George Ellison, killed on 11.11.1918.

They are surrounded by the graves of British and German soldiers who have rested there together in peace since 1916.

On 4th August 2014 Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge together with His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales commemorated the centenary of WW1 at Saint-Symphorien.



Mons Memorial Museum

Mons Memorial Museum

The Mons Memorial Museum invites you to travel through the history of WW1 and WW2. The exhibition doesn't only deal with the military aspects of the conflicts, but also with the civilian ones.

www.monsmemorialmuseum.mons.be

Discover Mons Battlefield

From Casteau-Soignies road where Corporal E. Thomas fired the first British shot on the continent since Waterloo to nearly the same place, where Canadian troops of the 116th battalion ended WW1.

Centenary of the Liberation of Mons by the Canadians

In November 2018, the city of Mons will commemorate the centenary of its liberation by Canadian troops. On the afternoon of 11th November, we invite you to a Liberation parade at the Grand-Place of Mons. As in 1918, there will be a spectacular parade with all the Canadian regiments to remember their triumphant arrival at the Grand-Place. Among the different events, we also invite you to attend a show combining mapping, artists and projections on the Grand-Place (from 26th October to 11th November). A very special programme is scheduled on 10th and 11th November.

The programme of the ceremonies is available on www.visitmons.co.uk

Get more information on

visitmons.co.uk and like our *Mons Memorial Tourism* facebook page.

Booking: michel.vasko@ville.mons.be



20 OCTOBER 2017
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